

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Robust fuzzy sliding mode control and vibration suppression of free-floating flexible-link and flexible-joints space manipulator with external interference and uncertain parameter

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Abstract

The flexibility of the free-floating flexible space manipulator system's link and joint may affect the control accuracy and cause vibrations. We studied the dynamics modeling, joint trajectory tracking control, and vibration suppressing problem of free-floating flexible-link and flexible-joints space manipulator system with external interference and uncertain parameter. The system's dynamic equations are established using linear momentum conservation, angular momentum conservation, assumed mode method, and Lagrange equation. Then, the system's singular perturbation model is established, and a hybrid control is presented. For the slow subsystem, a robust fuzzy sliding mode control is proposed to realize the joint desired trajectory tracking. For the fast subsystem, a speed difference feedback control and a linear-quadratic optimal control are designed to suppress the vibration caused by the flexible joints and the flexible link separately. The simulation comparison experiments under different conditions are taken. The simulate results demonstrate the proposed hybrid control's validity.

1. Introduction

With the development of space technology, especially the successful application of the space station, space shuttles, space robot, etc., the space manipulator, as a critical technology of in-orbit support and service, has shown strong application ability and broad application prospect and has played a significant, influential role in the development of space science and application. There are considerable achievements in the research of the space manipulator [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12]. Many control methods have been proposed, such as PID control, robust control [13, 14, 15], adaptive control [16, 17, 18], fuzzy control, neural network control, and many hybrid control methods [19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26].

Most of the current researches usually assume that space manipulator is a rigid system. But, in practice, the space manipulator often contains flexible components, such as the flexible joint and the flexible link. The flexible link has lightweight, less inertia, low energy consumption, sizeable working place, and high work efficiency. But, it may deform and vibrate [27, 28, 29]. The flexible joint, caused by the harmonic drive gears, can reduce the damage caused by a collision when the manipulator grabs the target object and can compensate for the torque. But, it will cause error and vibration [30, 31, 32].

With the increasing requirement of lightweight, high speed, and high precision, we cannot ignore the influence of flexibility. Especially for the free-floating flexible space manipulator system, the system is nonlinear and strongly coupled. The flexible link makes the system uncertain; the flexible joints make the system's degrees of freedom be twice the number of control inputs. So, the dynamic analysis and the

motion control design become difficult. There are some researches on the flexible space manipulator, and many control methods are proposed. Komats [33] had dynamical analysis for a redundant flexible space manipulator with slewing and deployable links on the space platform. Wu [34] proposed an optimal trajectory planning method with vibration reduction for a dual-arm space robot with flexible links using Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO). Xie [35] offered a robust and adaptive control for the free-floating flexible space manipulator with bounded control torques. Sabatini [36] presented an optimized adaptive vibration control via piezoelectric devices for a space manipulator with flexible links during its on-orbit operations. Huang [37] carried out some simulation experiments on the trajectory tracking of multi-flexible-link space robot with a dead zone. Kumar [38] developed a simplified model controller that only needs the space robot's base velocity and link parameters. Kayastha [39] adopted linear quadratic regulator (LQR) and model predictive control (MPC) algorithms to control the motion of a two-link flexible space robot system under external force. But, they are only for the space manipulator with flexible link. Yu [40] proposed an observer-based two-time scale robust control of free-flying flexible-joint space manipulators. Nanos [41] established the flexible-joint space manipulator dynamics model. Ulrich proposed an adaptive trajectory control [42], an extended Kalman filter (EKF) strategy [43], and a nonlinear adaptive output feedback control [44] for the flexible-joint space manipulator. Liang [45] discussed a radial basis function neural network adaptive control and elastic vibration suppression for flexible-joint space robots with unknown parameters. But, they are only for the space manipulator with flexible joint. The researches on the space manipulator with both flexible link and flexible joint are few. Dong [46] considered the flexibility of joint and link and discussed the dynamic modeling and analysis of space manipulator. Xie [47] established the free-floating flexible-joint and flexible-link space robot's singular perturbation model and proposed a nonlinear sliding mode motion control. Zhang [48] designed a trajectory tracking controller with friction compensation based on the computed torque method. Yu [49] offered an augmented robust control method based on a singularly perturbed model. Zhang [50] designed a L_2 -gain robust control for space robot with flexible joints and flexible link, which directly avoided solving the HJI inequality.

Simultaneously, we notice that some physical parameters of the space manipulator system are uncertain or time varying due to the changes in parameters, load, fuel, etc. [51,52] So, the controller, which is usually used for the fixed base manipulator, is challenging to apply to the space manipulator's control directly. Meanwhile, the space manipulator system will inevitably be affected by the friction between the arm joints, movement noise, fuel change, solar wind, particle ray flow, and other external interference.

To save fuel, prolong the space robot system's service life, and reduce the launch cost, it is essential to study the free-floating space manipulator in which the base's position and attitude are not actively controlled [53]. In this paper, the dynamic modeling, motion control, and double vibration active suppression for the free-floating flexible-link and flexible-joint space manipulator system with external interference and uncertain parameters are studied. We consider the flexibility of the link and joints. The system's dynamic equations are established according to linear momentum conservation, angular momentum conservation, assumed mode method [54], and Lagrange equation. To facilitate the design of the control, according to the singular perturbation theory [55], the system is decomposed into three subsystems:

- the slow subsystem
- the flexible-joints fast subsystem
- the flexible-link fast subsystem

Then, for the slow subsystem, a robust fuzzy sliding mode control is proposed. It can compensate for the system's uncertain parameters and external interference by the robust controller and can reduce the chattering of sliding mode control by the saturated function and the fuzzy controller. And, the fuzzy controller is designed based on the results of the system stability analysis. For the flexible-joints fast subsystem, a velocity difference feedback controller is designed to suppress the flexible-joints vibration. For the flexible-link fast subsystem, a linear quadratic regulator (LQR) [56] is presented to stop the flexible-link vibration. Finally, the MATLAB simulations with different desired trajectories and external

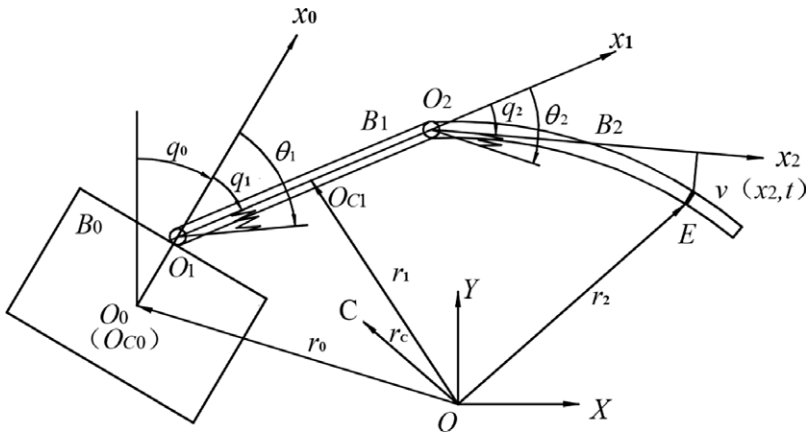


Figure 1. Free-floating flexible-link and flexible-joints space manipulator.

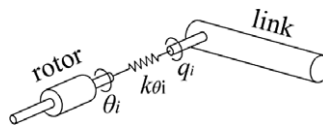


Figure 2. The simple model of flexible joint.

interference are taken to verify the proposed controller’s effectiveness. The simulation results proved that the proposed hybrid control could control the system to track the desired trajectory accurately and suppress the vibration caused by the flexible joints and the flexible link.

The main contributions of this study are summarized as follows:

- (1) Both flexible link and flexible joint are considered in the space manipulator system.
- (2) The uncertain parameters and external interference are considered.
- (3) The dynamic model of the system is established and decomposed by the singular perturbed method.
- (4) A hybrid controller is proposed to track the desired trajectory and suppress the vibration caused by the flexible joints and the flexible link.

2. System dynamic analysis and modeling

The free-floating flexible-link and flexible-joints space manipulator system is composed of a rigid base B_0 , a rigid link B_1 , a flexible link B_2 , and two flexible joints $O_i (i = 1, 2)$, as shown in Fig. 1. OXY is the inertial coordinate system, and $O_j x_j y_j$ is the main axis coordinate of $B_j (j = 0, 1, 2)$. The centroids of B_0 , B_1 , and the system are O_{c0} , O_{c1} , and C . Their position vectors are r_0 , r_1 , and r_c . The arbitrary point’s position vector on the flexible link B_2 is r_2 . q_j is the motion angle of B_j . θ_i is the motor rotor’s angle.

According to Spong’s assumption [57], we regard the flexible joints O_i as a linear spring between the motor rotor and the link and the spring’s stiffness coefficient is $k_{\theta i}$, as shown in Fig. 2. In this case, the rotor’s rotation angle θ_i will not always equal the link’s rotation angle q_i . And, the flexible-joint error is: $\sigma_i = \theta_i - q_i$.

The flexible link B_2 is considered as an Euler–Bernoulli beam [58]. Neglecting the rotational inertia and shear deformation, based on the assumed mode method, the flexible link’s elastic deformation is:

$$v(x_2, t) = \sum_{i=1}^n \varphi_i(x_2) \delta_i(t) \tag{1}$$

where $\varphi_i(x_2)$ is the i th mode function, $\delta_i(t)$ is the i th mode coordinate, and n is the retention mode number. Considering that the lower order modes play a leading role in elastic vibration and deformation, the first two lower-order modes can meet the accuracy requirements and reduce the calculation [59,60]. So, we choose $n = 2$, that is, $v(x_2, t) = \varphi_1(x_2)\delta_1(t) + \varphi_2(x_2)\delta_2(t)$.

According to the geometric position relationship

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{r}_1 = \mathbf{r}_0 + l_0\mathbf{e}_0 + d_1\mathbf{e}_1 \\ \mathbf{r}_2 = \mathbf{r}_0 + l_0\mathbf{e}_0 + l_1\mathbf{e}_1 + x_2\mathbf{e}_2 + v(x_2, t)\mathbf{e}_3 \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

where l_0 is the distance between O_{c0} and O_1 , d_1 is the distance between O_1 and O_{c1} , l_1 is the length of B_1 .

$$\mathbf{e}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(q_0) \\ \cos(q_0) \end{bmatrix}^T, \mathbf{e}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(q_0 + q_1) \\ \cos(q_0 + q_1) \end{bmatrix}^T, \mathbf{e}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(q_0 + q_1 + q_2) \\ \cos(q_0 + q_1 + q_2) \end{bmatrix}^T, \mathbf{e}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(q_0 + q_1 + q_2) \\ -\sin(q_0 + q_1 + q_2) \end{bmatrix}^T.$$

The system’s total center theorem of mass is:

$$m_0\mathbf{r}_0 + m_1\mathbf{r}_1 + \rho \int_0^{l_2} \mathbf{r}_2 dx_2 = M\mathbf{r}_c \tag{3}$$

where m_0 is the mass of B_0 , m_1 is the mass of B_1 , ρ is the linear density of B_2 , and l_2 is the length of B_2 . M is the total system’s mass, $M = m_0 + m_1 + \rho l_2$. The mass of the motor is negligible.

The position vectors can be expressed as follows:

$$\mathbf{r}_i = \mathbf{r}_c + R_{i0}\mathbf{e}_0 + R_{i1}\mathbf{e}_1 + R_{i2}\mathbf{e}_2 + (R_{i3}\delta_1 + R_{i4}\delta_2)\mathbf{e}_3 \tag{4}$$

where $R_{00} = -(m_1 + \rho l_2)l_0/M$, $R_{01} = -(m_1 d_1 + \rho l_2 l_1)/M$, $R_{02} = -\rho l_2^2/(2M)$, $R_{03} = -\rho \int_0^{l_2} \varphi_1(x_2) dx_2/M$, $R_{04} = -\rho \int_0^{l_2} \varphi_2(x_2) dx_2/M$, $R_{10} = R_{00} + l_0$, $R_{11} = R_{01} + d_1$, $R_{12} = R_{02}$, $R_{13} = R_{03}$, $R_{14} = R_{04}$, $R_{20} = R_{00} + l_0$, $R_{21} = R_{01} + l_1$, $R_{22} = R_{02} + x_2$, $R_{23} = R_{03} + \varphi_1(x_2)$, $R_{24} = R_{04} + \varphi_2(x_2)$.

Differentiating Eq. (4), we have:

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_i = \dot{\mathbf{r}}_c + R_{i0}\dot{\mathbf{e}}_0 + R_{i1}\dot{\mathbf{e}}_1 + R_{i2}\dot{\mathbf{e}}_2 + (R_{i3}\dot{\delta}_1 + R_{i4}\dot{\delta}_2)\dot{\mathbf{e}}_3 + (R_{i3}\dot{\delta}_1 + R_{i4}\dot{\delta}_2)\mathbf{e}_3 \tag{5}$$

where $\dot{\mathbf{r}}_i$, $\dot{\mathbf{r}}_c$, $\dot{\delta}_1$, and $\dot{\delta}_2$ are the first derivative of \mathbf{r}_i , \mathbf{r}_c , δ_1 , and δ_2 . $\dot{\mathbf{e}}_0 = \dot{q}_0 \begin{bmatrix} \cos(q_0) \\ -\sin(q_0) \end{bmatrix}^T$, $\dot{\mathbf{e}}_1 = (\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1) \begin{bmatrix} \cos(q_0 + q_1) \\ -\sin(q_0 + q_1) \end{bmatrix}^T$, $\dot{\mathbf{e}}_2 = (\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \begin{bmatrix} \cos(q_0 + q_1 + q_2) \\ -\sin(q_0 + q_1 + q_2) \end{bmatrix}^T$, and $\dot{\mathbf{e}}_3 = (\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \begin{bmatrix} -\sin(q_0 + q_1 + q_2) \\ -\cos(q_0 + q_1 + q_2) \end{bmatrix}^T$.

Without loss of generality, the system satisfies the momentum conservation and the angular momentum conservation. Let the initial values of the momentum and the angular momentum be zero, the system’s momentum conservation equation and the angular momentum conservation equation can be expressed as:

$$m_0\dot{\mathbf{r}}_0 + m_1\dot{\mathbf{r}}_1 + \rho \int_0^{l_2} \dot{\mathbf{r}}_2 dx_2 = 0 \tag{6}$$

$$(m_0\mathbf{r}_0 \times \dot{\mathbf{r}}_0 + J_0\omega_0) + (m_1\mathbf{r}_1 \times \dot{\mathbf{r}}_1 + J_1\omega_1) + \rho \int_0^{l_2} (\mathbf{r}_2 \times \dot{\mathbf{r}}_2) dx_2 + \sum_{i=1}^2 (J_{\theta_i}\omega_{\theta_i}) = 0 \tag{7}$$

where J_0 is the inertial moment of B_0 , J_1 is the inertial moment of B_1 , and J_{θ_i} is the inertial moment of the motor rotor. ω_0 is the angular velocity of B_0 , $\omega_0 = \dot{q}_0$. ω_1 is the angular velocity of B_1 , $\omega_1 = (\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1)$. ω_{θ_i} is the angular velocity of motor rotor, $\omega_{\theta_i} = \dot{\theta}_i$.

The system’s kinetic energy T contains the manipulator system’s kinetic energy T_r , and the motor rotors’ kinetic energy T_θ :

$$T = T_r + T_\theta \tag{8}$$

where $T_r = T_0 + T_1 + T_2$, $T_\theta = T_{\theta_1} + T_{\theta_2}$. $T_0 = \frac{1}{2}m_0\dot{\mathbf{r}}_0^2 + \frac{1}{2}J_0\omega_0^2$ is B_0 ’s kinetic energy, $T_1 = \frac{1}{2}m_1\dot{\mathbf{r}}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}J_1\omega_1^2$ is B_1 ’s kinetic energy, $T_2 = \frac{1}{2}\rho \int_0^{l_2} \dot{\mathbf{r}}_2^2 dx_2$ is B_2 ’s kinetic energy, $T_{\theta_i} = \frac{1}{2}J_{\theta_i}\omega_{\theta_i}^2$ is the motor rotor’s kinetic energy.

Neglecting the gravity in the space. The system’s potential energy U contains the flexible link’s bending strain energy U_r , and the flexible joints’ elastic deformation potential energy U_θ :

$$U = U_r + U_\theta \tag{9}$$

where $U_r = \frac{1}{2}EI \int_0^{l_2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 v(x_2,t)}{\partial x_2^2} \right)^2 dx_2$, $U_\theta = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 k_{\theta_i}(\theta_i - q_i)^2$, EI is the bending stiffness of B_2 .

The system’s Lagrangian function is: $L = T - U$. Choose $\mathbf{Q} = [\theta_1 \ \theta_2 \ q_0 \ q_1 \ q_2 \ \delta_1 \ \delta_2]^T$ as the system’s generalized coordinate, $\mathbf{F} = [\tau_1 \ \tau_2 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]^T$ as the generalized force. Then, according to Lagrange’s second type equation $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{Q}}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{Q}} = \mathbf{F}$, the system’s dynamic equation has the following form

$$\mathbf{J}_\theta \ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \mathbf{K}_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q}_\theta) = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_d \tag{10a}$$

$$\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}, \boldsymbol{\delta}) \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \ddot{\boldsymbol{\delta}} \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\delta}}) \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\delta}} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\mathbf{K}_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q}_\theta) \\ \mathbf{K}_\delta \boldsymbol{\delta} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0} \tag{10b}$$

where $\boldsymbol{\theta} = [\theta_1 \ \theta_2]^T$, $\mathbf{q}_\theta = [q_1 \ q_2]^T$, $\mathbf{q} = [q_0 \ q_1 \ q_2]^T$, $\boldsymbol{\delta} = [\delta_1 \ \delta_2]^T$, $\mathbf{J}_\theta = \text{diag}(J_{\theta_1}, J_{\theta_2}) \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 2}$ is the diagonal and positive definite inertia matrix of the motor, $\mathbf{K}_\theta = \text{diag}(k_{\theta_1}, k_{\theta_2}) \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 2}$ is the simplified linear spring stiffness coefficient matrix of flexible joint, $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}, \boldsymbol{\delta}) \in \mathbf{R}^{5 \times 5}$ is the space manipulator’s symmetric positive definite inertia matrix, $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\delta}}) \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\delta}} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbf{R}^{5 \times 1}$ is a column vector containing the Coriolis force and centrifugal force, $\mathbf{K}_\delta = \text{diag}(k_{\delta_1}, k_{\delta_2})$ is the flexible link’s stiffness coefficient matrix, $k_{\delta_i} = \int_0^{l_2} EI \varphi_i''^T \varphi_i'' dx_2$. $\boldsymbol{\tau} = [\tau_1 \ \tau_2]^T \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 1}$ is the output torque of the motors, and $\boldsymbol{\tau}_d \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 1}$ is the external interference torque.

It can be seen that Eq. (10a) is the dynamic equation of the motor and Eq. (10b) is the dynamic equation of the space manipulator.

3. Singular perturbation decomposition and control design

The free-floating flexible-link and flexible-joints space manipulator system is a rigid-flexible coupling system. The interaction between the rigid variables and the flexible variables will make the controller’s design difficult and affect the control quality. To reduce the interaction between variables, we use the singular perturbation method to decompose the complex system into a slow subsystem and a fast subsystem with independent time scales. The slow subsystem describes the system’s rigid movement. The fast subsystem describes the system’s flexible movement. Then, the appropriate controller is designed for each subsystem. The slow subsystem’s controller $\boldsymbol{\tau}_s$ is designed to achieve the desired trajectory asymptotic tracking. The fast subsystem’s controller $\boldsymbol{\tau}_f$ is designed to suppress the double vibration caused by the flexible joints and the flexible link [61]. So, we can write the system’s total controller as: $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \boldsymbol{\tau}_s + \boldsymbol{\tau}_f$.

First, we decomposed Eq. (10b) into the following form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_{11} & \mathbf{M}_{12} & \mathbf{M}_{13} \\ \mathbf{M}_{21} & \mathbf{M}_{22} & \mathbf{M}_{23} \\ \mathbf{M}_{31} & \mathbf{M}_{32} & \mathbf{M}_{33} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\mathbf{q}}_0 \\ \ddot{\mathbf{q}}_\theta \\ \ddot{\delta} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{N}_1 \\ \mathbf{N}_2 \\ \mathbf{N}_3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\mathbf{K}_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q}_\theta) \\ \mathbf{K}_\delta \delta \end{bmatrix} = 0 \tag{11}$$

where $\mathbf{M}_{11} \in \mathbf{R}^{1 \times 1}$, $\mathbf{M}_{12} \in \mathbf{R}^{1 \times 2}$, $\mathbf{M}_{13} \in \mathbf{R}^{1 \times 2}$, $\mathbf{M}_{21} \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 1}$, $\mathbf{M}_{22} \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 2}$, $\mathbf{M}_{23} \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 2}$, $\mathbf{M}_{31} \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 1}$, $\mathbf{M}_{32} \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 2}$, and $\mathbf{M}_{33} \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 2}$ are the sub-matrices of $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}, \delta)$. $\mathbf{N}_1 \in \mathbf{R}^{1 \times 1}$, $\mathbf{N}_2 \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 1}$, $\mathbf{N}_3 \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 1}$ are the sub-matrices of $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \delta, \dot{\delta}) \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \dot{\delta} \end{bmatrix}$.

From Eq. (11), we have

$$\ddot{\mathbf{q}}_0 = -\mathbf{M}_{11}^{-1}(\mathbf{M}_{12}\ddot{\mathbf{q}}_\theta + \mathbf{M}_{13}\ddot{\delta}) - \mathbf{M}_{11}^{-1}\mathbf{N}_1 \tag{12}$$

Substitute Eq. (12) into Eq. (11), we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{D}_{11} & \mathbf{D}_{12} \\ \mathbf{D}_{21} & \mathbf{D}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\mathbf{q}}_\theta \\ \ddot{\delta} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_1 \\ \mathbf{C}_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{K}_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q}_\theta) \\ \mathbf{K}_\delta \delta \end{bmatrix} = 0 \tag{13}$$

where $\mathbf{D}_{11} = -\mathbf{M}_{21}\mathbf{M}_{11}^{-1}\mathbf{M}_{12} + \mathbf{M}_{22}$, $\mathbf{D}_{12} = -\mathbf{M}_{21}\mathbf{M}_{11}^{-1}\mathbf{M}_{13} + \mathbf{M}_{23}$, $\mathbf{D}_{21} = -\mathbf{M}_{31}\mathbf{M}_{11}^{-1}\mathbf{M}_{12} + \mathbf{M}_{32}$, $\mathbf{D}_{22} = -\mathbf{M}_{31}\mathbf{M}_{11}^{-1}\mathbf{M}_{13} + \mathbf{M}_{33}$, $\mathbf{C}_1 = -\mathbf{M}_{21}\mathbf{M}_{11}^{-1}\mathbf{N}_1 + \mathbf{N}_2$, $\mathbf{C}_2 = -\mathbf{M}_{31}\mathbf{M}_{11}^{-1}\mathbf{N}_1 + \mathbf{N}_3$.

Because the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{D}_{11} & \mathbf{D}_{12} \\ \mathbf{D}_{21} & \mathbf{D}_{22} \end{bmatrix}$ is symmetric and positive definite, it is reversible. Its inverse matrix can be expressed as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{D}_{11} & \mathbf{D}_{12} \\ \mathbf{D}_{21} & \mathbf{D}_{22} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G}_{11} & \mathbf{G}_{12} \\ \mathbf{G}_{21} & \mathbf{G}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \tag{14}$$

Let the flexible-joint error vector $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q}_\theta = [\sigma_1 \quad \sigma_2]^T$. We rewrite Eqs. (10) and (13) as following

$$\ddot{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - \ddot{\mathbf{q}}_\theta = -\mathbf{J}_\theta^{-1}\mathbf{K}_\theta\boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathbf{J}_\theta^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_d) - \ddot{\mathbf{q}}_0 \tag{15a}$$

$$\ddot{\mathbf{q}}_\theta = -\mathbf{G}_{11}\mathbf{C}_1 - \mathbf{G}_{12}\mathbf{C}_2 - \mathbf{G}_{12}\mathbf{K}_\delta\delta + \mathbf{G}_{11}\mathbf{K}_\theta\boldsymbol{\sigma} \tag{15b}$$

$$\ddot{\delta} = -\mathbf{G}_{21}\mathbf{C}_1 - \mathbf{G}_{22}\mathbf{C}_2 - \mathbf{G}_{22}\mathbf{K}_\delta\delta + \mathbf{G}_{21}\mathbf{K}_\theta\boldsymbol{\sigma} \tag{15c}$$

Defining a singular perturbation factor: $\varepsilon^2 = 1/\min\{k_{\delta 1}, k_{\delta 2}, k_{\theta 1}, k_{\theta 2}\}$, two variables: $\mathbf{z}_\delta = \delta/\varepsilon^2$ and $\mathbf{z}_\theta = \boldsymbol{\sigma}/\varepsilon^2$, two matrices: $\mathbf{K}_{\delta\varepsilon} = \varepsilon^2\mathbf{K}_\delta$ and $\mathbf{K}_{\theta\varepsilon} = \varepsilon^2\mathbf{K}_\theta$. Then, the singular perturbation model of the system's dynamic equation is established:

$$\varepsilon^2\ddot{\mathbf{z}}_\theta = -\mathbf{J}_\theta^{-1}\mathbf{K}_{\theta\varepsilon}\mathbf{z}_\theta + \mathbf{J}_\theta^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_d) - \ddot{\mathbf{q}}_0 \tag{16a}$$

$$\ddot{\mathbf{q}}_\theta = -\mathbf{G}_{11}\mathbf{C}_1 - \mathbf{G}_{12}\mathbf{C}_2 - \mathbf{G}_{12}\mathbf{K}_{\delta\varepsilon}\mathbf{z}_\delta + \mathbf{G}_{11}\mathbf{K}_{\theta\varepsilon}\mathbf{z}_\theta \tag{16b}$$

$$\varepsilon^2\ddot{\mathbf{z}}_\delta = -\mathbf{G}_{21}\mathbf{C}_1 - \mathbf{G}_{22}\mathbf{C}_2 - \mathbf{G}_{22}\mathbf{K}_{\delta\varepsilon}\mathbf{z}_\delta + \mathbf{G}_{21}\mathbf{K}_{\theta\varepsilon}\mathbf{z}_\theta \tag{16c}$$

3.1. The slow subsystem

The slow subsystem only describes the system's rigid movement. So here, we can ignore the influences of the flexible joints and the flexible link. Let $\varepsilon = 0$, then Eq. (16) can be rewritten as:

$$0 = -J_{\theta}^{-1} \bar{K}_{\theta\epsilon} \bar{z}_{\theta} + J_{\theta}^{-1} (\tau_s + \tau_d) - \ddot{q}_{\theta} \tag{17a}$$

$$\ddot{q}_{\theta} = -\bar{G}_{11} \bar{C}_1 - \bar{G}_{12} \bar{C}_2 - \bar{G}_{12} \bar{K}_{\delta\epsilon} \bar{z}_{\delta} + \bar{G}_{11} \bar{K}_{\theta\epsilon} \bar{z}_{\theta} \tag{17b}$$

$$0 = -\bar{G}_{21} \bar{C}_1 - \bar{G}_{22} \bar{C}_2 - \bar{G}_{22} \bar{K}_{\delta\epsilon} \bar{z}_{\delta} + \bar{G}_{21} \bar{K}_{\theta\epsilon} \bar{z}_{\theta} \tag{17c}$$

where \bar{A} is the corresponding matrix or variable of A when $\epsilon = 0$, that is, the corresponding matrix or variable calculated in the slowly varying time scale.

From Eq. (17a)

$$\bar{z}_{\theta} = \bar{K}_{\theta\epsilon}^{-1} (\tau_s + \tau_d - J_{\theta} \ddot{q}_{\theta}) \tag{18}$$

Substituting Eq. (18) into Eq. (17c), we can get:

$$\bar{z}_{\delta} = \bar{K}_{\delta\epsilon}^{-1} \bar{G}_{22}^{-1} [-\bar{G}_{21} \bar{C}_1 - \bar{G}_{22} \bar{C}_2 + \bar{G}_{21} (\tau_s + \tau_d - J_{\theta} \ddot{q}_{\theta})] \tag{19}$$

Then, substituting Eqs. (18) and (19) into Eq. (17b), the slow subsystem’s dynamics equation can be obtained as:

$$D_s \ddot{q}_{\theta} + C_s = \tau_s + \tau_d \tag{20}$$

where $D_s = [\bar{G}_{11} - \bar{G}_{12} \bar{G}_{22}^{-1} \bar{G}_{21}]^{-1} + J_{\theta}$, $C_s = [\bar{G}_{11} - \bar{G}_{12} \bar{G}_{22}^{-1} \bar{G}_{21}]^{-1} (\bar{G}_{11} - \bar{G}_{12}) \cdot C_1$.

Equation (20) can be rewritten as a quasi-linear form:

$$D_s \ddot{q}_{\theta} + H_s \dot{q}_{\theta} = \tau_s + \tau_d \tag{21}$$

where $H_s \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 2}$ is not unique, but it can satisfy [62]

$$x^T (\dot{D}_s - 2H_s) x = 0, \quad \forall x \in \mathbf{R}^{2 \times 1} \tag{22}$$

Considering the system’s uncertainty,

$$D_s = \hat{D}_s + \Delta D_s, \quad H_s = \hat{H}_s + \Delta H_s \tag{23}$$

where \hat{D}_s and \hat{H}_s are the approximate matrices of D_s and H_s , respectively, and ΔD_s and ΔH_s are the system model estimation errors.

Assuming the system’s uncertain parameters are bounded, ΔD_s and ΔH_s are also bounded. There are positive constants l_d and l_h ,

$$\|\Delta D_s\| \leq l_d, \quad \|\Delta H\| \leq l_h \|\dot{q}\| \tag{24}$$

And, assuming τ_d is bounded. So, there is a positive constant l_t that satisfies:

$$\|\tau_d\| \leq l_t \tag{25}$$

Defined $q_d = [q_{1d} \quad q_{2d}]^T$ be the expected output vector of the slow subsystem, then the output error vector e between q_d and the actual output vector $q_{\theta} = [q_1 \quad q_2]^T$ is: $e = q_{\theta} - q_d = [e_1 \quad e_2]^T$.

Selecting the following sliding surface

$$s = \dot{e} + \lambda e \tag{26}$$

where λ is a positive constant diagonal matrix.

Derivating s

$$\dot{s} = \ddot{e} + \lambda \dot{e} = \ddot{q}_{\theta} - \ddot{q}_{\theta d} + \lambda \dot{e} \tag{27}$$

Substitute Eq. (16a) into Eq. (12),

$$D_s \dot{s} = \tau_s + \tau_d - H_s \dot{q}_{\theta} - D_s \ddot{q}_{\theta d} + D_s \lambda \dot{e} \tag{28}$$

The slow subsystem’s controller is designed as follows:

$$\tau_s = u_1 + u_2 + u_3 \tag{29}$$

(1) u_1 is an equivalent controller,

$$u_1 = \hat{D}_s \ddot{q}_{\theta d} + \hat{H}_s \dot{q}_\theta - \hat{D}_s \lambda \dot{e} - \hat{H}_s s \tag{30}$$

(2) u_2 is a robust controller. It is used to compensate for the system’s uncertain parameter and external disturbance.

$$u_2 = -K_s \text{sat} \left(\frac{s}{\Phi} \right) \tag{31}$$

where $K_s = l_d \|\lambda \dot{e} - \ddot{q}_{\theta d}\| + l_h \|\dot{q}_\theta\| \cdot \|s - \dot{q}_\theta\| + l_t$. $\text{sat}(\frac{s}{\Phi}) = [\text{sat}(\frac{s_1}{\Phi_1}) \quad \text{sat}(\frac{s_2}{\Phi_2})]^T$, it is a saturated function vector. It is used to reduce the chattering of sliding mode control itself, its elements are:

$$\text{sat} \left(\frac{s_i}{\Phi_i} \right) = \begin{cases} \text{sgn}(s_i) & \text{if } |s_i| > \Phi_i \\ \frac{s_i}{\Phi_i} & \text{if } |s_i| \leq \Phi_i \end{cases}, \quad (i = 1, 2) \tag{32}$$

where $\Phi = [\Phi_1 \quad \Phi_2]^T$, Φ_1 and Φ_2 are positive parameters, s_i is the i th element of s , and Φ_i is the i th element of Φ .

(3) u_3 is a fuzzy controller. It is used to reduce the vibration of sliding mode control, improve the approach speed, and ensure the system’s stability.

u_3 is designed based on the results of the system stability analysis, as follows:
 Defined a Lyapunov function:

$$V = \frac{1}{2} s^T D_s s \tag{33}$$

Differentiating V , and combining Eqs. (22) and (28), then

$$\dot{V} = s^T D_s \dot{s} + \frac{1}{2} s^T \dot{D}_s s = s^T (\tau_s + \tau_d - H_s \dot{q}_\theta - D_s \ddot{q}_{\theta d} + D_s \lambda \dot{e}) + s^T H_s s \tag{34}$$

Substitute Eqs. (23), (29), (30), and (31) into Eq. (34), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V} &= s^T [\hat{D}_s \ddot{q}_{\theta d} + \hat{H}_s \dot{q}_\theta - \hat{D}_s \lambda \dot{e} - \hat{H}_s s - K_s \text{sat} \left(\frac{s}{\Phi} \right) + u_3 + \tau_d - H_s \dot{q}_\theta - D_s \ddot{q}_{\theta d} + D_s \lambda \dot{e}] + s^T H_s s \\ &= s^T \left[\Delta D_s (\lambda \dot{e} - \ddot{q}_{\theta d}) + \Delta H_s (s - \dot{q}_\theta) - K_s \text{sat} \left(\frac{s}{\Phi} \right) + u_3 + \tau_d \right] \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

The system’s stability analysis has two cases:

Case 1: when $|s_i| > \Phi_i$, $\text{sat}(\frac{s_i}{\Phi_i}) = \text{sgn}(s_i)$. Substitute (24) and (25) into Eq. (35), we have:

$$\dot{V} \leq s^T u_3 \tag{36}$$

So when $s^T u_3 < 0$, $\dot{V} < 0$. Thus, the asymptotic stability of s, e, \dot{e} outside the boundary layer can be guaranteed.

Case 2: when $|s_i| \leq \Phi_i$, $\text{sat}(\frac{s_i}{\Phi_i}) = \frac{s_i}{\Phi_i}$. Substitute (24) and (25) into Eq. (35), we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V} &\leq s^T \left(l_d \|\lambda \dot{e} - \ddot{q}_{\theta d}\| + l_h \|\dot{q}_\theta\| \cdot \|s - \dot{q}_\theta\| - K_s \frac{s}{\Phi} + u_3 + l_t \right) \\ &\leq l_d \|\lambda \dot{e} - \ddot{q}_{\theta d}\| \cdot \|s\| + l_h \|\dot{q}_\theta\| \cdot \|s - \dot{q}_\theta\| \cdot \|s\| - K_s \frac{\|s\|^2}{\|\Phi\|} + s^T u_3 + l_t \|s\| \\ &= (l_d \|\lambda \dot{e} - \ddot{q}_{\theta d}\| + l_h \|\dot{q}_\theta\| \cdot \|s - \dot{q}_\theta\| + l_t) \cdot \|s\| - K_s \frac{\|s\|^2}{\|\Phi\|} + s^T u_3 \\ &= K_s \left(\|s\| - \frac{\|s\|^2}{\|\Phi\|} \right) + s^T u_3 \end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

So when $s^T u_3 \leq -K_s (\|s\| - \frac{\|s\|^2}{\|\Phi\|})$, $\dot{V} \leq 0$, and $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} s = 0$.

Table I. The fuzzy rules.

s	NB	NM	NS	ANZ	APZ	PS	PM	PB
u_3	PS	PM	PB	PB	NB	NB	NM	NS

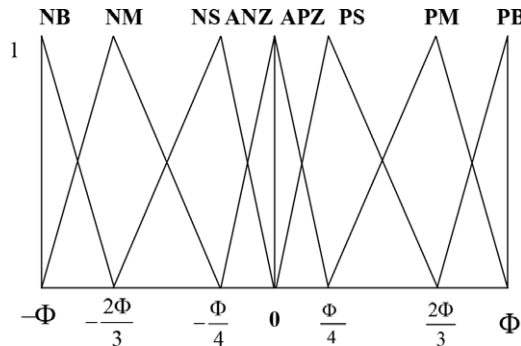


Figure 3. Membership function of s .

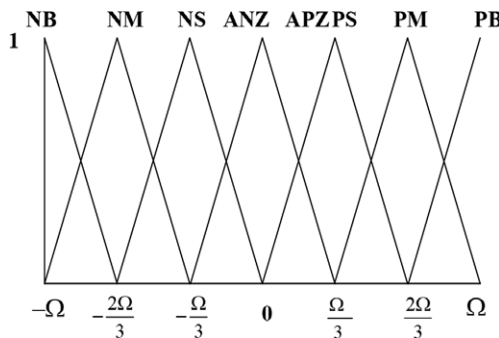


Figure 4. Membership function of u_3 .

In conclusion, when $s^T u_3 < 0$ and $s^T u_3 \leq -K_s (\|s\| - \frac{\|s\|^2}{\|\Phi\|})$, $\dot{V} \leq 0$, s, e, \dot{e} are asymptotically stable.

To satisfy the above conditions, a one-input one-output fuzzy controller is designed. The input variable is s , and the output variable is u_3 . The membership function of the input variable s is shown in Fig. 3. The membership function of output variables u_3 is shown in Fig. 4. Where Φ is the design parameter defined in Eq. (32), Ω is a new design parameter which can be selected by trial and experience. The fuzzy controller’s working principle is: u_3 can be chosen appropriately according to s ’s value to satisfy the requirements of system control. The fuzzy base rule is shown in Table I in which the following abbreviations have been used: NB: Negative Big; NM: Negative Medium; NS: Negative Small; ANZ: Approach Negative Zero; APZ: Approach Positive Zero; PS: Positive Small; PM: Positive Medium; PB: Positive Big. For example, when s is NB, u_3 is PS; when s is NM, u_3 is PM. Finally, we use the center of gravity method to solve the fuzzy problem.

3.2. The fast subsystem

The fast subsystem describes the system’s flexible movement. The flexible joints and the flexible link will not only affect the control but also produce vibration. And, their vibration levels are not the same. So, we further decompose the fast subsystem into two independent sub-sub systems: the flexible-joint fast subsystem and the flexible-link fast subsystem. The flexible-joint fast subsystem describes the system’s flexible movement caused by the flexible joints. And, the flexible-link fast subsystem describes

the system’s flexible movement caused by the flexible link. The flexible-joint fast subsystem’s controller τ_{f1} is designed to suppress the vibration caused by the flexible joints. The flexible-link fast subsystem’s controller τ_{f2} is used to suppress the vibration caused by the flexible-link actively. So, the total controller for the fast subsystem is: $\tau_f = \tau_{f1} + \tau_{f2}$.

3.2.1. The flexible-joint fast subsystem

Now, only the influence of the flexible joints is considered. So, let $\delta = 0$ in Eq. (16), the dynamic equation of the rigid-link and flexible-joints system is obtained as:

$$\varepsilon^2 \ddot{z}_\theta = -J_\theta^{-1} K_{\theta\varepsilon} z_\theta + J_\theta^{-1} \tau_{k1} - \ddot{q}_\theta \tag{38a}$$

$$\ddot{q}_\theta = -D_s^{-1} (C_1 - K_{\theta\varepsilon} z_\theta) \tag{38b}$$

where $\tau_{k1} = \tau_s + \tau_{f1} + \tau_d$.

The feedback controller is designed as following

$$\tau_{f1} = \frac{K_f(\dot{q}_\theta - \dot{\theta})}{\varepsilon^2} \tag{39}$$

where $K_f = K_2/\varepsilon^2$, K_2 is a positive definite diagonal matrix.

The controller can adjust K_f in time according to the difference of the link’s rotation angular velocity \dot{q}_θ and the motor rotor’s rotation angular velocity $\dot{\theta}$. The stability of the flexible-joint fast subsystem is ensured. Combining with Eq. (38), the flexible-joint fast subsystem’s dynamic equation is:

$$\varepsilon^2 \ddot{z}_\theta = J_\theta^{-1} (\tau_s + \tau_d - K_{\theta\varepsilon} z_\theta - J_\theta \ddot{q}_\theta) - \varepsilon^2 J_\theta^{-1} K_2 \dot{z}_\theta \tag{40}$$

3.2.2. The flexible-link fast subsystem

Now, only the influence of the flexible link is considered. So let $\theta = q_\theta$, $\dot{\theta} = \dot{q}_\theta$ in Eq. (16), the dynamic equation of the flexible-link and rigid-joints system is obtained as:

$$\ddot{q}_\theta = -G_{11}^* C_1 - G_{12}^* C_2 - G_{12}^* K_{\delta\varepsilon} z_\delta + G_{11}^* \tau_{k2} \tag{41a}$$

$$\varepsilon^2 \ddot{z}_\delta = -G_{21}^* C_1 - G_{22}^* C_2 - G_{22}^* K_{\delta\varepsilon} z_\delta + G_{21}^* \tau_{k2} \tag{41b}$$

where $\tau_{k2} = \tau_s + \tau_{f2} + \tau_d$, $G_{11}^* = \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + G_{11} J_\theta \right)^{-1} G_{11}$, $G_{12}^* = \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + G_{11} J_\theta \right)^{-1} G_{12}$, $G_{21}^* = G_{21} - \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + G_{11} J_\theta \right)^{-1} G_{21} J_\theta G_{11}$, $G_{22}^* = G_{22} - \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + G_{11} J_\theta \right)^{-1} G_{21} J_\theta G_{12}$.

Definite a fast time variant: $t_f = t/\varepsilon^2$, and its modifications: $z_{f1} = z_\theta - \bar{z}_\theta$ and $z_{f2} = \varepsilon^2 \dot{z}_\delta$. In the fast subsystem, the slow variables can be regarded as constants, that is, $d\bar{z}_\delta/dt_f = \varepsilon^2 \dot{z}_\delta = 0$. Let $\varepsilon = 0$, the dynamic equation of the flexible-link fast subsystem can be obtained as:

$$\frac{dZ_f}{dt_f} = A_f Z_f + B_f \tau_{f2} \tag{42}$$

where $Z_f = \begin{bmatrix} z_{f1} \\ z_{f2} \end{bmatrix}$, $A_f = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ -\bar{G}_{22}^* K_{\delta\varepsilon} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $B_f = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \bar{G}_{21}^* \end{bmatrix}$.

Because Eq. (42) is linear controlled, we can adjust the system state variable Z_f using a linear-quadratic optimal controller. It can reach zero to realize the active suppression of the elastic

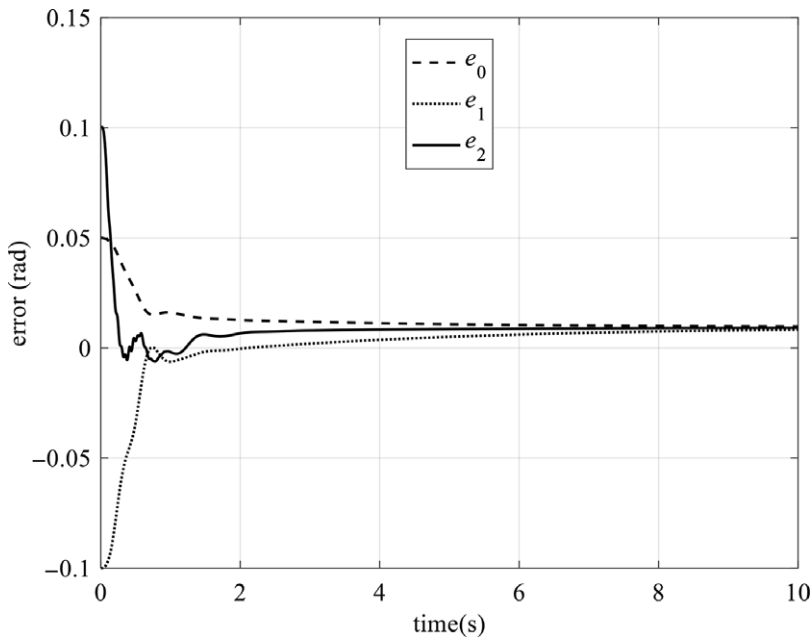


Figure 5. The space manipulator trajectory tracking errors.

vibration caused by the flexible link. Choosing the performance function of the optimal control: $J_f = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty (\mathbf{Z}_f^T \mathbf{Q}_f \mathbf{Z}_f + \boldsymbol{\tau}_{f2}^T \mathbf{R}_f \boldsymbol{\tau}_{f2}) dt_f$, the controller can be designed as:

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_{f2} = -\mathbf{R}_f^{-1} \mathbf{B}_f^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{Z}_f \tag{43}$$

where \mathbf{Q}_f and \mathbf{R}_f are symmetric positive definite matrices; \mathbf{P} is the only solution for the Riccati equation [63]: $\mathbf{P} \mathbf{A}_f + \mathbf{A}_f^T \mathbf{P} - \mathbf{P} \mathbf{B}_f \mathbf{R}_f^{-1} \mathbf{B}_f^T \mathbf{P} + \mathbf{Q}_f = 0$.

4. Simulation

We use the proposed hybrid controller to simulate the free-floating flexible-joints and flexible-link space manipulator system shown in Fig. 1. The actual values of the parameters in the system are: $m_0 = 40\text{kg}$, $m_1 = 2\text{kg}$, $\rho = 1\text{kg/m}$, $l_1 = 3\text{m}$, $l_2 = 3\text{m}$, $EI = 300\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2$, $J_0 = 34.17\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2$, $J_1 = 3\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2$, $J_{\theta 1} = J_{\theta 2} = 0.5\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2$, $k_{\theta 1} = k_{\theta 2} = 300\text{N} \cdot \text{m/rad}$. The flexible link is easy to deform, so l_2 is uncertain. In the simulation, its estimated value is: $l_2 = 2.5\text{m}$. The fuzzy parameters are: $\Phi_1 = \Phi_2 = 1$, $\Omega_1 = \Omega_2 = 10$. The control parameters are: $\lambda = \text{diag}(12, 12)$, $l_d = 1$, $l_h = 1$, $l_t = 2$, $\mathbf{K}_2 = \text{diag}(100, 100)$, $\mathbf{Q}_f = \text{diag}(0.1, 0.1)$, $\mathbf{R}_f = \text{diag}(0.01, 0.01)$.

Simulation 1:

First, a simple simulation is taken. The desired trajectories are: $q_{0d} = 0$, $q_{1d} = 0.1\text{rad}$, $q_{2d} = 0$. The initial states are: $\mathbf{q}(0) = [0.05 \ 0 \ 0.1]^T \text{rad}$, $\boldsymbol{\theta}(0) = [0 \ 0.1]^T \text{rad}$, $\boldsymbol{\delta}(0) = [0 \ 0]^T \text{m}$. The simulation time: $t = 10\text{s}$. None external interference signal.

The simulation results are shown in Figs. 5–8. Figure 5 is the space manipulator trajectory tracking error curve. Figure 6 is the curve of the flexible link’s mode coordinate. Figure 7 is the flexible link’s deformation curve. Figure 8 shows the flexible-joints angle errors. We can see that the system’s trajectory tracking errors converge to zero (the error is only 0.009 rad). The flexible-link’s vibration is suppressed, and its deformation is compensated. The flexible-joints angle errors are decreased. The control is effective.

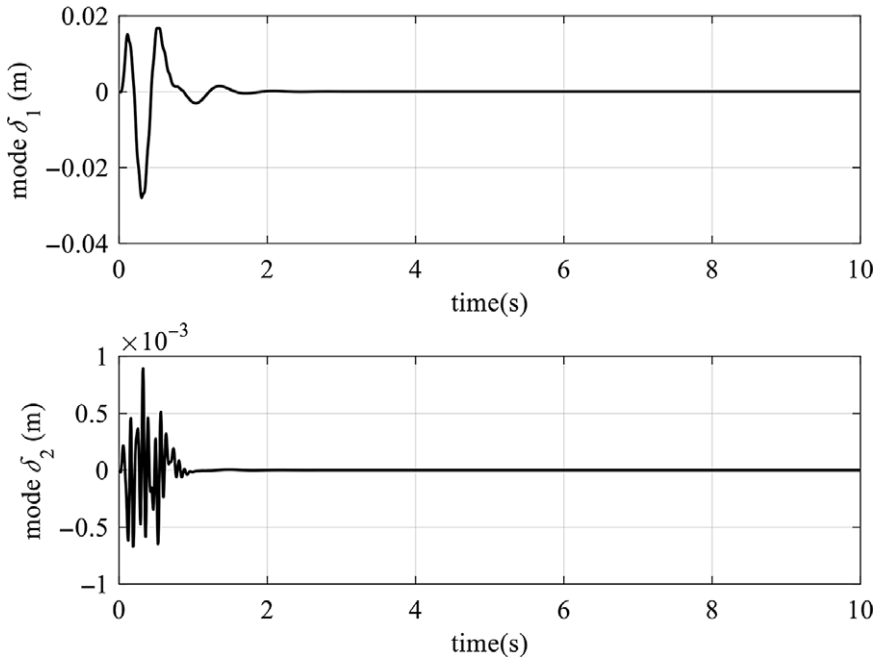


Figure 6. *The flexible link's mode coordinate.*

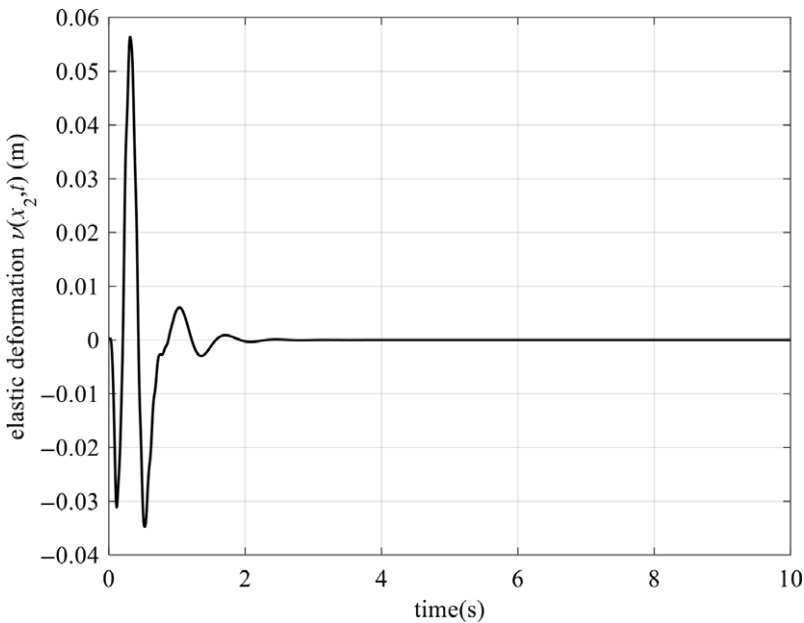


Figure 7. *The flexible link's deformation.*

But, the desired trajectories are simple, and the external interference is not considered in simulation 1. So, simulation 2 is taken.

Simulation 2:

The desired trajectories are: $q_{0d} = \frac{\pi}{4} \left[\frac{1}{10} - \frac{1}{2\pi} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{5}t\right) \right]$, $q_{1d} = \frac{\pi}{2} \left[\frac{1}{10} - \frac{1}{2\pi} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{5}t\right) \right]$, $q_{2d} = \frac{\pi}{2} \left[1 - \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{5}t\right) \right]$. The initial state is: $\mathbf{q}(0) = [0 \ 0.1 \ 1.5]^T \text{rad}$, $\boldsymbol{\theta}(0) = [0.1 \ 1.5]^T \text{rad}$,

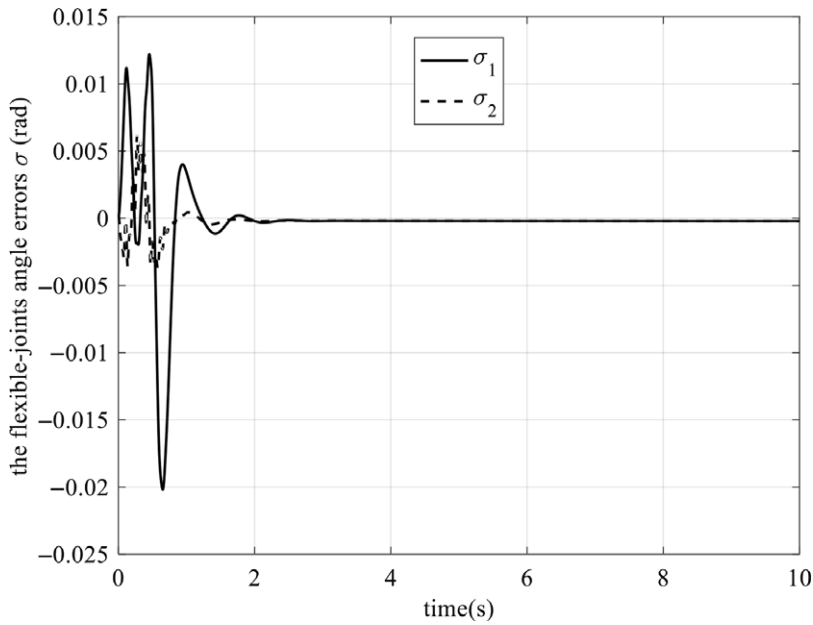


Figure 8. The flexible-joints angle errors σ .

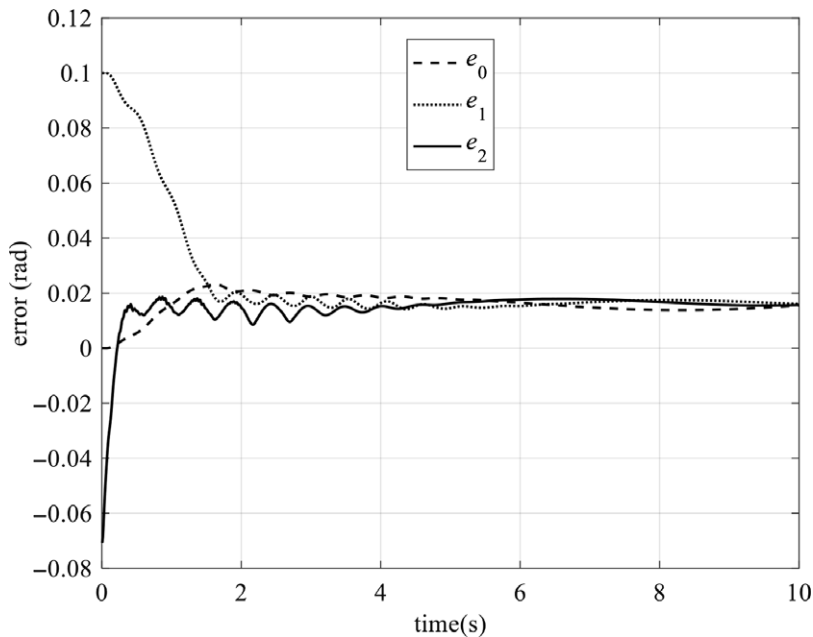


Figure 9. The space manipulator trajectory tracking errors.

$\delta(0) = [0 \ 0]^T m$. The simulation time: $t = 10s$. The external interference signal is: $\tau_d = [\sin(t) \ \cos(t)]^T N \cdot m$.

The simulation results are shown in Figs. 9–12. Figure 9 is the space manipulator trajectory tracking error curve. Figure 10 is the curve of the flexible link’s mode coordinate. Figure 11 is the flexible link’s deformation curve. Figure 12 shows the flexible-joints angle errors. The results show that the system

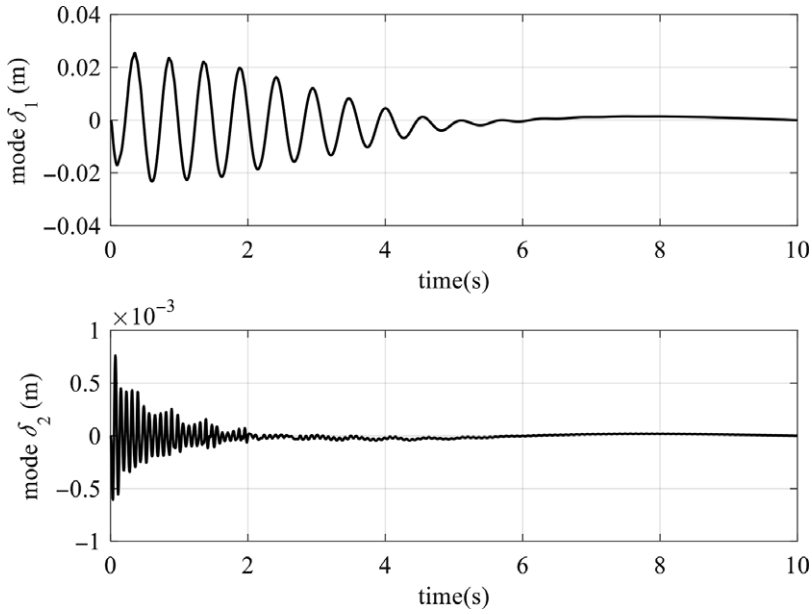


Figure 10. *The flexible link's mode coordinate.*

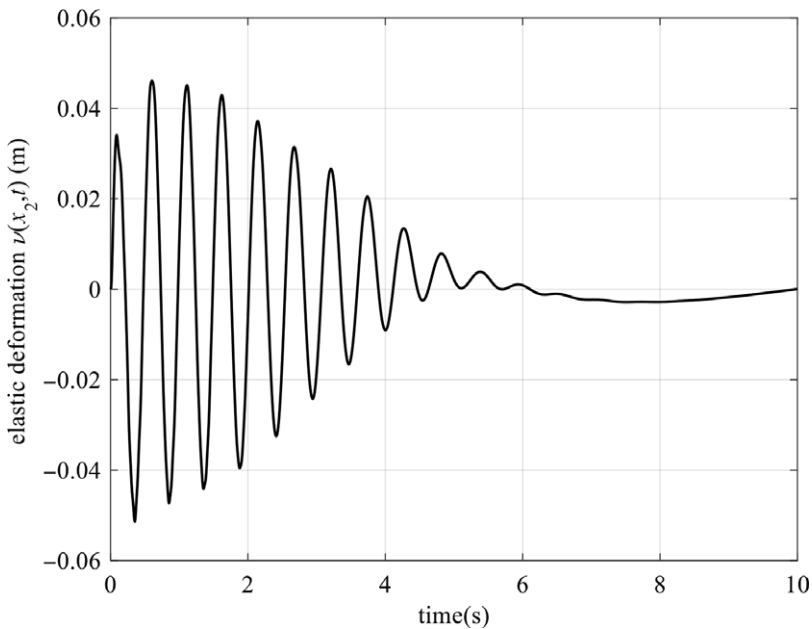


Figure 11. *The flexible link's deformation.*

can accurately track the desired trajectory (the error is only 0.015 rad). The flexible link's deformation is compensated. The vibrations caused by the flexible joints and the flexible link can be suppressed.

The comparison experiments are also taken in simulation 2 to prove the effectiveness of the hybrid control:

Case 1: Turn off the fuzzy controller u_3 . The simulation results are shown in Figs. 13 and 14. We can find that, when u_3 is closed, the system's tracking errors and the flexible-joints angle errors increase, the control precision decreases.

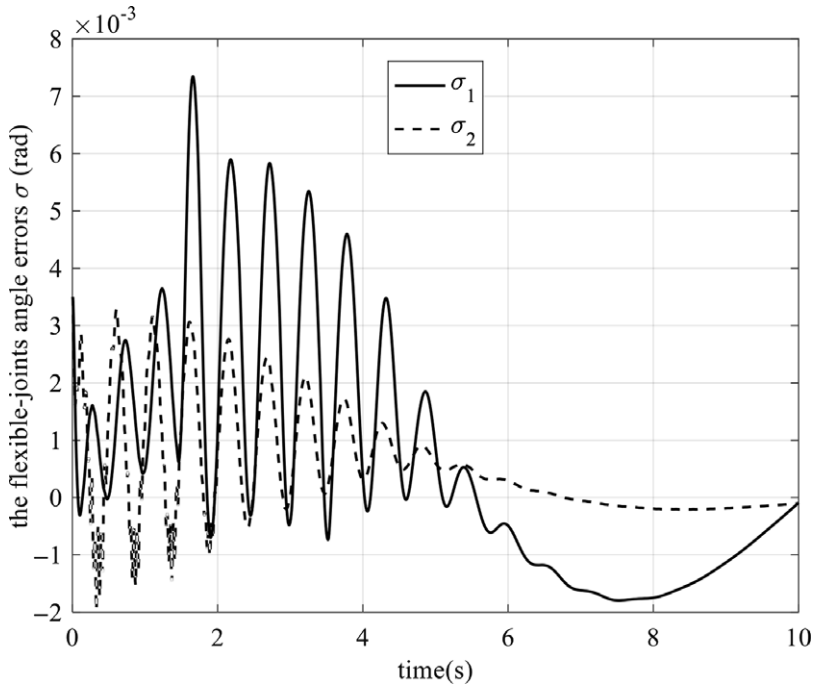


Figure 12. The flexible-joints angle errors σ .

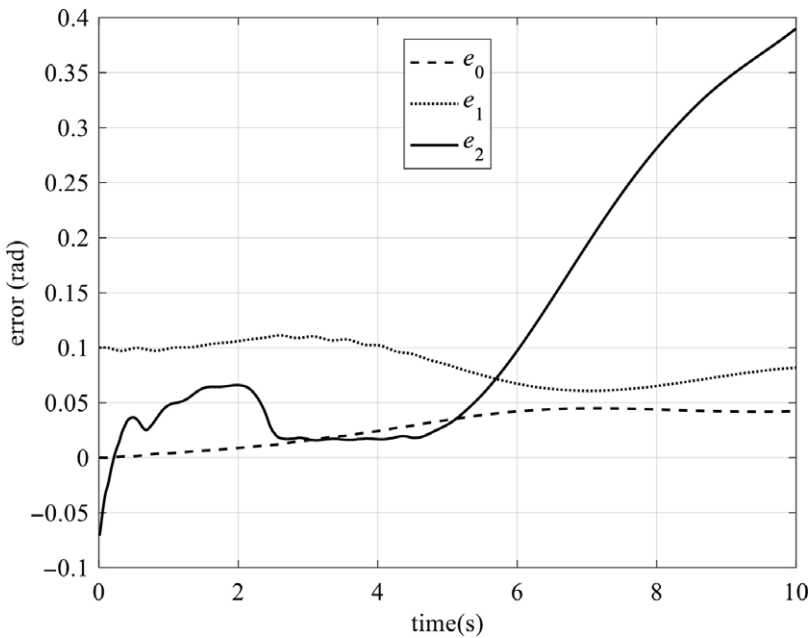


Figure 13. The space manipulator trajectory tracking errors when u_3 is closed.

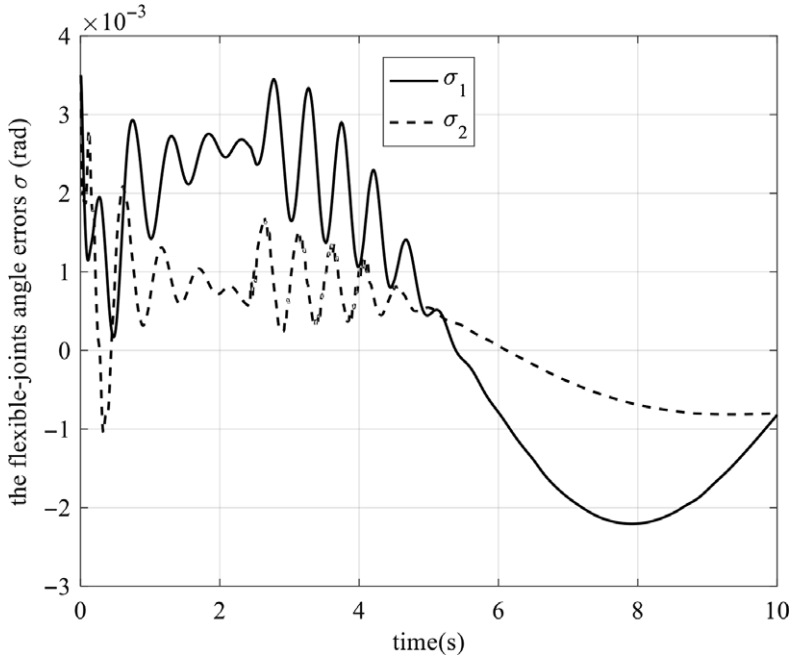


Figure 14. The flexible-joints angle errors σ when u_3 is closed.

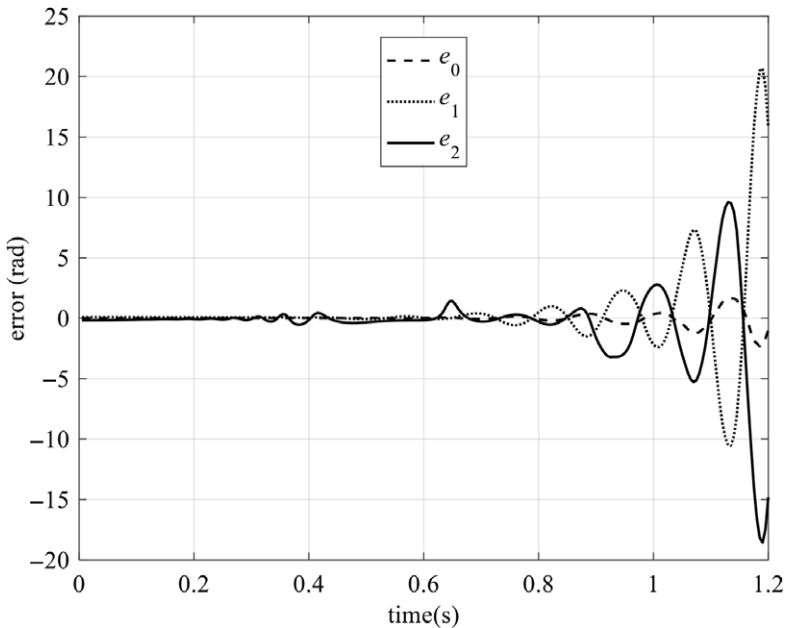


Figure 15. The space manipulator trajectory tracking errors when τ_f is closed.

Case 2: Turn off the fast controller τ_f . The simulation results are shown in Figs. 15–18. We can find that, when τ_f is closed, the trajectory tracking errors and the flexible-joints angle errors became large in <1.2 s, the flexible-link’s vibration cannot be suppressed and its deformation cannot be compensated. That is, the system fails to track. So, the effectiveness of τ_f is proved.

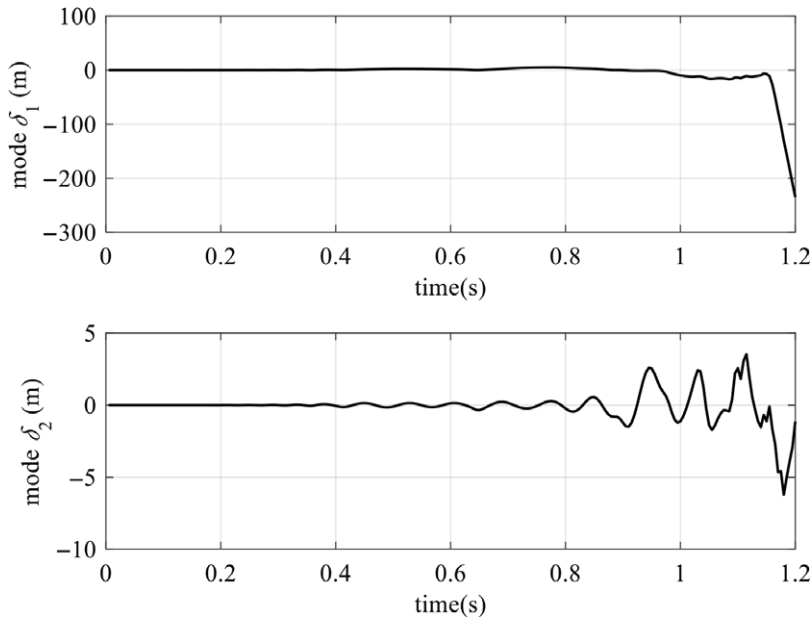


Figure 16. The flexible link's mode coordinate when τ_f is closed.

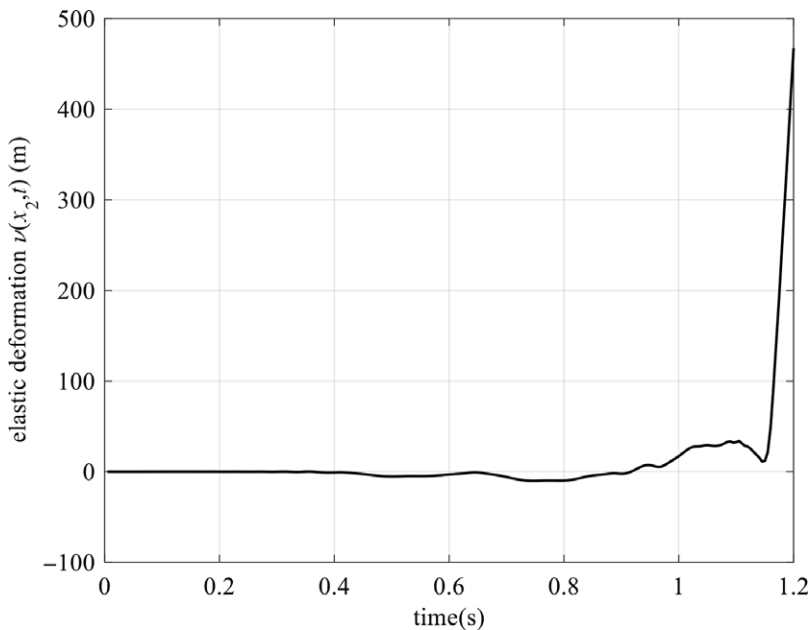


Figure 17. The flexible link's deformation when τ_f is closed.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, the free-floating space manipulator system with flexible-joints, flexible-link, uncertain parameters, and external interference is studied. First, combining the assumed mode method, the system's linear momentum conservation, angular momentum conservation, and Lagrange equation, the system's dynamic equation is established. Considering that this is a rigid-flexible hybrid system, the system dynamics singular perturbation model is established according to the singular perturbation method.

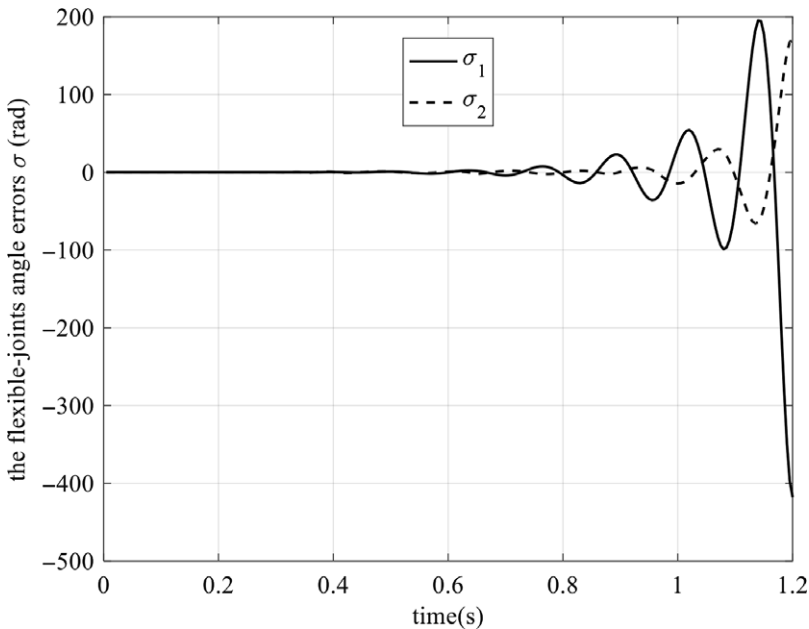


Figure 18. The flexible-joints angle errors σ when τ_f is closed.

Then, a hybrid control is proposed, composed of the slow subsystem's robust fuzzy sliding mode control, the flexible-joints fast subsystem's speed difference feedback control, and the flexible-link fast subsystem's linear-quadratic optimal control. The MATLAB simulations with different desired trajectories and external interference are taken. The simulation results proved that the hybrid control could control the system to track the desired trajectory accurately and suppress the vibration caused by the flexible joints and the flexible link. The controller has the advantages of real-time feedback, self-adaptation, and fewer calculations.

However, we also found that the error's convergence speed is not fast enough, the vibration is evident at the initial stage of the response, and the results did not reach the optimal state. That may be related to the strong coupling and non-linearity of the system and the double flexibility. Improving and optimizing the control performance will be my main task in the future.

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Conflicts of Interest. The author(s) declare none.

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Appendix: $M(q, \delta)$ and $H(q, \dot{q}, \delta, \dot{\delta})$ in Dynamic Eq. (10)

$$\begin{aligned} M(1, 1) = & 2\Gamma_1 + 2\Gamma_2 + 2\Gamma_3 + 2\Gamma_4\delta_1^2 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2^2 + 2\Gamma_6 \cos(q_1) + 2\Gamma_7 \cos(q_1 + q_2) - 2\Gamma_8\delta_1 \sin(q_1 + q_2) \\ & - 2\Gamma_9\delta_2 \sin(q_1 + q_2) + 2\Gamma_{10} \cos(q_2) - 2\Gamma_{11}\delta_1 \sin(q_2) - 2\Gamma_{12}\delta_2 \sin(q_2) + 2\Gamma_{13}\delta_1\delta_2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} M(1, 2) = & 2\Gamma_2 + 2\Gamma_3 + 2\Gamma_4\delta_1^2 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2^2 + \Gamma_6 \cos(q_1) + \Gamma_7 \cos(q_1 + q_2) - \Gamma_8\delta_1 \sin(q_1 + q_2) \\ & - \Gamma_9\delta_2 \sin(q_1 + q_2) + 2\Gamma_{10} \cos(q_2) - 2\Gamma_{11}\delta_1 \sin(q_2) - 2\Gamma_{12}\delta_2 \sin(q_2) + 2\Gamma_{13}\delta_1\delta_2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} M(1, 3) = & 2\Gamma_3 + 2\Gamma_4\delta_1^2 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2^2 + \Gamma_7 \cos(q_1 + q_2) - \Gamma_8\delta_1 \sin(q_1 + q_2) - \Gamma_9\delta_2 \sin(q_1 + q_2) \\ & + \Gamma_{10} \cos(q_2) - \Gamma_{11}\delta_1 \sin(q_2) - \Gamma_{12}\delta_2 \sin(q_2) + 2\Gamma_{13}\delta_1\delta_2 \end{aligned}$$

$$M(1, 4) = \Gamma_8 \cos(q_1 + q_2) + \Gamma_{11} \cos(q_2) + \Gamma_{14}$$

$$M(1, 5) = \Gamma_9 \cos(q_1 + q_2) + \Gamma_{12} \cos(q_2) + \Gamma_{15}$$

$$M(2, 1) = M(1, 2)$$

$$M(2, 2) = 2\Gamma_2 + 2\Gamma_3 + 2\Gamma_4\delta_1^2 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2^2 + 2\Gamma_{10} \cos(q_2) - 2\Gamma_{11}\delta_1 \sin(q_2) - 2\Gamma_{12}\delta_2 \sin(q_2) + 2\Gamma_{13}\delta_1\delta_2$$

$$M(2, 3) = 2\Gamma_3 + 2\Gamma_4\delta_1^2 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2^2 + \Gamma_{10} \cos(q_2) - \Gamma_{11}\delta_1 \sin(q_2) - \Gamma_{12}\delta_2 \sin(q_2) + \Gamma_{13}\delta_1\delta_2$$

$$M(2, 4) = \Gamma_{11} \cos(q_2) + \Gamma_{14}$$

$$M(2, 5) = \Gamma_{12} \cos(q_2) + \Gamma_{15}$$

$$M(3, 1) = M(1, 3)$$

$$M(3, 2) = M(2, 3)$$

$$M(3, 3) = 2\Gamma_3 + 2\Gamma_4\delta_1^2 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2^2 + 2\Gamma_{13}\delta_1\delta_2$$

$$M(3, 4) = \Gamma_{14}$$

$$M(3, 5) = \Gamma_{15}$$

$$M(4, 1) = M(1, 4), M(4, 2) = M(2, 4), M(4, 3) = M(3, 4), M(4, 4) = 2\Gamma_4, M(4, 5) = \Gamma_{13}$$

$$M(5, 1) = M(1, 5), M(5, 2) = M(2, 5), M(5, 3) = M(3, 5), M(5, 4) = M(4, 5), M(5, 5) = 2\Gamma_5$$

$$H(1, 1) = 2\Gamma_4\delta_1\dot{\delta}_1 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2\dot{\delta}_2 - \Gamma_6\dot{q}_1 \sin(q_1) - \Gamma_7(\dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_1 + q_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & - \Gamma_8[\dot{\delta}_1 \sin(q_1 + q_2) + \delta_1(\dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \cos(q_1 + q_2)] - \Gamma_9[\dot{\delta}_2 \sin(q_1 + q_2) \\ & + \delta_2(\dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \cos(q_1 + q_2)] - \Gamma_{10}\dot{q}_2 \sin(q_2) - \Gamma_{11}[\dot{\delta}_1 \sin(q_2) + \delta_1\dot{q}_2 \cos(q_2)] \\ & - \Gamma_{12}[\dot{\delta}_2 \sin(q_2) + \delta_2\dot{q}_2 \cos(q_2)] + \Gamma_{13}(\dot{\delta}_1\delta_2 + \delta_1\dot{\delta}_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$H(1, 2) = 2\Gamma_4\delta_1\dot{\delta}_1 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2\dot{\delta}_2 - \Gamma_6(\dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_1) - \Gamma_7(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_1 + q_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & - \Gamma_8[\dot{\delta}_1 \sin(q_1 + q_2) + \delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \cos(q_1 + q_2)] - \Gamma_9[\dot{\delta}_2 \sin(q_1 + q_2) \\ & + \delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \cos(q_1 + q_2)] - \Gamma_{10}\dot{q}_2 \sin(q_2) - \Gamma_{11}[\dot{\delta}_1 \sin(q_2) + \delta_1\dot{q}_2 \cos(q_2)] \\ & - \Gamma_{12}[\dot{\delta}_2 \sin(q_2) + \delta_2\dot{q}_2 \cos(q_2)] + \Gamma_{13}(\dot{\delta}_1\delta_2 + \delta_1\dot{\delta}_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$H(1, 3) = 2\Gamma_4\delta_1\dot{\delta}_1 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2\dot{\delta}_2 - \Gamma_7(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_1 + q_2) - \Gamma_8[\dot{\delta}_1 \sin(q_1 + q_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & + \delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \cos(q_1 + q_2)] - \Gamma_9[\dot{\delta}_2 \sin(q_1 + q_2) + \delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \cos(q_1 + q_2)] \\ & - \Gamma_{10}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_2) - \Gamma_{11}[\dot{\delta}_1 \sin(q_2) + \delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \cos(q_2)] \\ & - \Gamma_{12}[\dot{\delta}_2 \sin(q_2) + \delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \cos(q_2)] + \Gamma_{13}(\dot{\delta}_1\delta_2 + \delta_1\dot{\delta}_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$H(1, 4) = 2\Gamma_4\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) - \Gamma_8(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_1 + q_2) - \Gamma_{11}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_2)$$

$$+ \Gamma_{13}\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)$$

$$H(1, 5) = 2\Gamma_5\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) - \Gamma_9(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_1 + q_2) - \Gamma_{12}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_2)$$

$$+ \Gamma_{13}\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)$$

$$H(2, 1) = 2\Gamma_4\delta_1\dot{\delta}_1 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2\dot{\delta}_2 + \Gamma_6\dot{q}_0 \sin(q_1) + \Gamma_7\dot{q}_0 \sin(q_1 + q_2) + \Gamma_8\delta_1\dot{q}_0 \cos(q_1 + q_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & + \Gamma_9\delta_2\dot{q}_0 \cos(q_1 + q_2) - \Gamma_{10}\dot{q}_2 \sin(q_2) - \Gamma_{11}[\dot{\delta}_1 \sin(q_2) + \delta_1\dot{q}_2 \cos(q_2)] \\ & - \Gamma_{12}[\dot{\delta}_2 \sin(q_2) + \delta_2\dot{q}_2 \cos(q_2)] + \Gamma_{13}(\dot{\delta}_1\delta_2 + \delta_1\dot{\delta}_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}(2, 2) = & 2\Gamma_4\delta_1\dot{\delta}_1 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2\dot{\delta}_2 - \Gamma_{10}\dot{q}_2 \sin(q_2) - \Gamma_{11}[\dot{\delta}_1 \sin(q_2) + \delta_1\dot{q}_2 \cos(q_2)] - \Gamma_{12}[\dot{\delta}_2 \sin(q_2) \\ & + \delta_2\dot{q}_2 \cos(q_2)] + \Gamma_{13}(\dot{\delta}_1\delta_2 + \delta_1\dot{\delta}_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}(2, 3) = & 2\Gamma_4\delta_1\dot{\delta}_1 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2\dot{\delta}_2 - \Gamma_{10}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_2) - \Gamma_{11}[\dot{\delta}_1 \sin(q_2) + \delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \cos(q_2)] \\ & - \Gamma_{12}[\dot{\delta}_2 \sin(q_2) + \delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \cos(q_2)] + \Gamma_{13}(\dot{\delta}_1\delta_2 + \delta_1\dot{\delta}_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{H}(2, 4) = 2\Gamma_4\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) - \Gamma_{11}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_2) + \Gamma_{13}\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H}(2, 5) = 2\Gamma_5\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) - \Gamma_{12}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \sin(q_2) + \Gamma_{13}\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}(3, 1) = & 2\Gamma_4\delta_1\dot{\delta}_1 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2\dot{\delta}_2 + \Gamma_7\dot{q}_0 \sin(q_1 + q_2) + \Gamma_8\delta_1\dot{q}_0 \cos(q_1 + q_2) + \Gamma_9\delta_2\dot{q}_0 \cos(q_1 + q_2) \\ & + \Gamma_{10}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1) \sin(q_2) + \Gamma_{11}\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1) \cos(q_2) + \Gamma_{12}\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1) \cos(q_2) + \Gamma_{13}(\dot{\delta}_1\delta_2 + \delta_1\dot{\delta}_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}(3, 2) = & 2\Gamma_4\delta_1\dot{\delta}_1 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2\dot{\delta}_2 + \Gamma_{10}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1) \sin(q_2) + \Gamma_{11}\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1) \cos(q_2) \\ & + \Gamma_{12}\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1) \cos(q_2) + \Gamma_{13}(\dot{\delta}_1\delta_2 + \delta_1\dot{\delta}_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{H}(3, 3) = 2\Gamma_4\delta_1\dot{\delta}_1 + 2\Gamma_5\delta_2\dot{\delta}_2 + \Gamma_{13}(\dot{\delta}_1\delta_2 + \delta_1\dot{\delta}_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H}(3, 4) = 2\Gamma_4\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) + \Gamma_{13}\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H}(3, 5) = 2\Gamma_5\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) + \Gamma_{13}\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H}(4, 1) = -2\Gamma_4\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) + \Gamma_8\dot{q}_0 \sin(q_1 + q_2) + \Gamma_{11}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1) \sin(q_2) - \Gamma_{13}\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H}(4, 2) = -2\Gamma_4\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) + \Gamma_{11}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1) \sin(q_2) - \Gamma_{13}\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H}(4, 3) = -2\Gamma_4\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) - \Gamma_{13}\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H}(4, 4) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{H}(4, 5) = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}(5, 1) = & -2\Gamma_5\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) + \Gamma_9\dot{q}_0 \sin(q_1 + q_2) + \Gamma_{12}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1) \sin(q_2) \\ & - \Gamma_{13}\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{H}(5, 2) = -2\Gamma_5\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) + \Gamma_{12}(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1) \sin(q_2) - \Gamma_{13}\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H}(5, 3) = -2\Gamma_5\delta_2(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) - \Gamma_{13}\delta_1(\dot{q}_0 + \dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H}(5, 4) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{H}(5, 5) = 0$$

where

$$\Gamma_1 = \frac{1}{2} (m_0R_{00}^2 + m_1R_{10}^2 + m_2R_{20}^2 + J_0), \Gamma_2 = \frac{1}{2} (m_0R_{01}^2 + m_1R_{11}^2 + m_2R_{21}^2 + J_1),$$

$$\Gamma_3 = \frac{1}{2} \left(m_0R_{02}^2 + m_1R_{12}^2 + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{22}^2 dx_2 \right), \Gamma_4 = \frac{1}{2} \left(m_0R_{03}^2 + m_1R_{13}^2 + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{23}^2 dx_2 \right)$$

$$\Gamma_5 = \frac{1}{2} \left(m_0R_{04}^2 + m_1R_{14}^2 + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{24}^2 dx_2 \right), \Gamma_6 = m_0R_{00}R_{01} + m_1R_{10}R_{11} + m_2R_{20}R_{21},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_7 &= m_0 R_{00} R_{02} + m_1 R_{10} R_{12} + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{20} R_{22} d\mathbf{x}_2, \Gamma_8 = m_0 R_{00} R_{03} + m_1 R_{10} R_{13} + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{20} R_{23} d\mathbf{x}_2, \\ \Gamma_9 &= m_0 R_{00} R_{04} + m_1 R_{10} R_{14} + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{20} R_{24} d\mathbf{x}_2, \Gamma_{10} = m_0 R_{01} R_{02} + m_1 R_{11} R_{12} + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{21} R_{22} d\mathbf{x}_2, \\ \Gamma_{11} &= m_0 R_{01} R_{03} + m_1 R_{11} R_{13} + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{21} R_{23} d\mathbf{x}_2, \Gamma_{12} = m_0 R_{01} R_{04} + m_1 R_{11} R_{14} + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{21} R_{24} d\mathbf{x}_2 \\ \Gamma_{13} &= m_0 R_{03} R_{04} + m_1 R_{13} R_{14} + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{23} R_{24} d\mathbf{x}_2, \Gamma_{14} = m_0 R_{02} R_{03} + m_1 R_{12} R_{13} + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{22} R_{23} d\mathbf{x}_2 \\ \Gamma_{15} &= m_0 R_{02} R_{04} + m_1 R_{12} R_{14} + \rho \int_0^{l_2} R_{22} R_{24} d\mathbf{x}_2. \end{aligned}$$