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Reduced-Order Observer-Based LQR Controller Design for Rotary Inverted Pendulum

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ABSTRACT

The Rotary Inverted Pendulum (RIP) is a widely used underactuated mechanical system in various applications such as bipedal robots and skyscraper stabilization where attitude control presents a significant challenge. Despite the implementation of various control strategies to maintain equilibrium, optimally tuning control gains to effectively mitigate uncertain nonlinearities in system dynamics remains elusive. Existing methods frequently rely on extensive experimental data or the designer's expertise, presenting a notable drawback. This paper proposes a novel tracking control approach for RIP, utilizing a Linear Quadratic Regulator (LQR) in combination with a reduced-order observer. Initially, the RIP system is mathematically modeled using the Newton-Euler-Lagrange method. Subsequently, a composite controller is devised that integrates an LQR for generating nominal control signals and a reduced-order observer for reconstructing unmeasured states. This approach enhances the controller's robustness by eliminating differential terms from the observer, thereby attenuating unknown disturbances. Thorough numerical simulations and experimental evaluations demonstrate the system's capability to maintain balance below 50 Hz and achieve precise tracking below 1.4 rad, validating the effectiveness of the proposed control scheme.

KEYWORDS

Rotary inverted pendulum (RIP); linear quadratic regulator (LQR); reduced-order observer; states estimate

1 Introduction

The Rotary Inverted Pendulum (RIP), also known as the Furuta Pendulum, has been extensively studied by researchers since its introduction in 1992 [1,2]. The RIP system, characterized by high instability, multivariate, nonlinear, and underactuated properties, is regarded as an ideal benchmark system for the training and validation of new control strategies in the field of engineering control. The study of dynamic modelling and equilibrium state control algorithms for the RIP systems is crucial in advanced technological sectors, especially in aerospace industry. Moreover, the progress in this field has found extensive application in daily life, as demonstrated by the steady-state control mechanisms used in Segway [3], bipedal robots [4], and skyscrapers [5]. Furthermore, the control principle of cranes [6] and offshore drilling platforms [7] share similarities with the model when the pendulum is suspended.



In fact, these mechanical systems exemplify a category of attitude control challenges that essential goal is to drive the arm in following a prescribed time-varying trajectory while keeping the pendulum balanced near a stable upright position. To achieve this, numerous linear and nonlinear controller synthesis methods have attracted significant interest and research attention. Among them, proportional-integral-derivative (PID) control or its hybrid variants are frequently used controllers [8,9], due to its simplistic structure, cost-effectiveness, and ease of implementation in hardware. Ideally, the performance of controlled dynamical systems should be optimal. However, determining the optimal control gain to efficiently suppress uncertain nonlinearities using the system dynamics model is challenging when designing a PID controller. Moreover, the PID controller is designed for linear applications without considering saturation nonlinearity, which may result in performance degradation or even instability in certain instances. In recent years, it has been found that the peculiarities of fractional calculus in mathematics provide an extension to the traditional PID method. Dwivedi et al. [10] was the first to design and test a fractional-order PID (FOPID) controller on RIP, and the saturation effect when the control input is saturated was mitigated by combining the FOPID controller with an anti-windup technique [11]. Linear quadratic regulation (LQR) is another commonly used optimal control method, which is based on minimizing a quadratic performance criterion that encapsulates state and control input variations. In references [12–14], the LQR controller was utilized to stabilize the attitude dynamics of RIP in an upright posture. Although LQR is optimal, it lacks robustness against parametric uncertainties. Therefore, hybrid versions of LQR, which incorporate additional control strategies, filters or observers, were employed to address this deficiency while ensuring robustness and optimal performance. For instance, the linear quadratic gaussian (LQG) controller, which combines a Kalman filter observer and LQR, was presented in [15,16]. Hybrid control, formulated in [17], integrates backstepping and LQR. Additionally, in [18], the combination of passivity-based control and LQR was analyzed, designed and implemented on RIP.

Recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and evolutionary computational techniques, collectively referred to as intelligent computational techniques, have introduced innovative solutions for controlling RIP systems. AI has gained popularity in clustering random complex matrices [19] and graphs [20]. There has been a recent surge in the development of an intelligent optimal control approach that integrates the adaptive features of intelligent computation into traditional linear control frameworks. Rather than manually tuning LQR, the state weighting matrices in [21,22] have been dynamically adjusted based on secant hyperbolic functions (SHFs) or optimized using particle swarm optimization (PSO) algorithms. Additionally, LQR controllers with fuzzy tuning have improved robustness in practical applications [23]. Consequently, the retrofitted LQR has demonstrated superior control outcomes. To fully exploit the benefits of intelligent algorithms and optimal control, some researchers have focused on associating LQR with a neural network (NN) for improving system response. In [24,25], LQR determines the stability of the IP system around arbitrary equilibrium points, while the NN control improves transient performance when deviations occur from an intended point and suppresses system bias.

In the aforementioned works, system models and state variables are pivotal in deriving optimal control laws or strategies to achieve the desired response and performance. However, many physical states of the system are either unmeasurable or extremely difficult to measure using sensors. Moreover, sensors are susceptible to noise interference, resulting in the acquisition of inaccurate measurements. A review of the existing literature shows that although a number of well-known control strategies, including neural NN-based system identification [26,27], fuzzy control (FC) [13,23], sliding mode control (SMC) [28], model-free control (MFC) [29], and hybrids of these, can mitigate the inherent problems of model-based control, but each has its own limitations. For example, NN often requires

extensive experimental datasets for effective training and testing; to ensure robustness, FC relies on intricate qualitative logic rules derived from the relevant experience of the operator or designer; while SMC accelerates system stabilization, but often leads to undesirable oscillation. Additionally, in practical control engineering systems, the simplicity of control algorithms is highly desired along with the achievement of control objectives.

Motivated by the aforementioned challenges and inspired by the observer-based control approach detailed in references [30–33], this study focuses on the stabilizing and tracking control problems for RIP systems using a reduced-order observer feedback within a LQR control framework. The contributions of this study are outlined as follows:

(1) The RIP was analyzed and modeled using Newton-Euler and Lagrange equations. Additionally, the controllability and observability of the system were determined, and the feedback gain matrix was evaluated.

(2) A reduced-order observer was proposed to reconstruct the unmeasured system states and showed excellent robustness to low-amplitude, high-frequency disturbances by eliminating the differential term.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: [Section 2](#) presents the mathematical model and linearization of the RIP system. In [Section 3](#), the design of the controller and reduced-order observer is introduced. In [Section 4](#), simulations and experiments are given, respectively. Finally, the main conclusions are presented in [Section 5](#).

2 Dynamic Model of RIP

The RIP system comprises an unactuated pendulum that freely rotates in a vertical plane, perpendicular to the tip of a horizontally rotating arm driven by a direct current (DC) motor. The system is characterized by two degrees of mechanical freedom and a single control input, as illustrated in [Fig. 1](#). Angle sensors are employed to detect the angle at which the pendulum deviates from equilibrium. The rotary arm and a parallel Z -axis are depicted in [Fig. 1](#), with the inertial earth-fixed reference frame labelled as O - XYZ and the arm-fixed reference frame as O' - $X'Y'Z'$.

It is assumed that the pendulum is homogeneous. The rotary arm and pendulum have masses M_1 and M_2 , respectively. To calculate a microelement of mass represented as dm_2 , situated at a distance l_2 from point O' on the pendulum, as follows:

$$dm_2 = \rho_2 dl_2 = \frac{M_2}{L_2} dl_2, \quad (1)$$

where ρ_2 represents the pendulum density, while dl_2 refers to the microelement length. [Fig. 2](#) provides a visualization of the pendulum's projection onto the XOY plane. From this, the coordinates of dm_2 in the O - XYZ frame can be determined as

$$\begin{cases} X = L_1 \cos \alpha - l_2 \sin \beta \cos \alpha, \\ Y = L_1 \sin \alpha + l_2 \sin \beta \cos \alpha, \\ Z = l_2 \cos \beta. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

From [Eqs. \(1\) and \(2\)](#), the kinetic energy e_k of the microelement is given by

$$e_k = \frac{1}{2} dm_2 v_2^2 = \frac{M_2}{2L_2} \left[\left(\frac{dX}{dt} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{dY}{dt} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{dZ}{dt} \right)^2 \right] dl_2, \quad (3)$$

where v_2 denotes the microelement's velocity. While, the kinetic energy of the whole pendulum E_{k2} can be determined as

$$E_{k2} = \int_0^{L_2} e_k dl_2 = \frac{L_1^2 M_2 \dot{\alpha}^2}{2} + \frac{L_1^2 M_2 \dot{\alpha}^2 (\sin \beta)^2}{6} + \frac{L_2^2 M_2 \dot{\beta}^2}{6} + \frac{L_1 L_2 M_2 \dot{\alpha} \dot{\beta} \cos \beta}{2}. \quad (4)$$

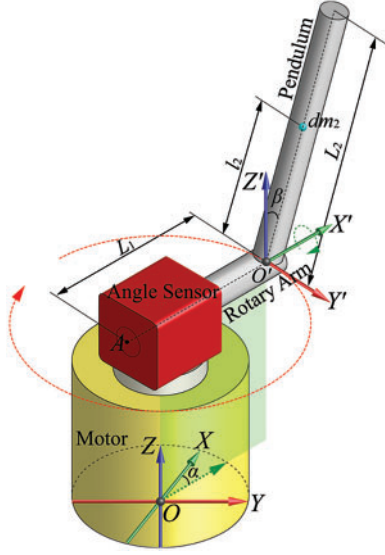


Figure 1: The RIP with reference frames

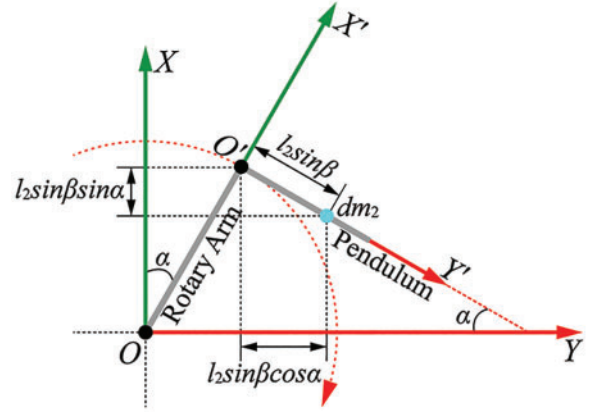


Figure 2: The pendulum projection into the XOY plane

The kinetic energy E_{k1} of the rotary arm can be calculated using Koening's theorem as follows:

$$E_{k1} = \frac{J_1 \omega_1^2}{2} = \frac{M_1 L_1^2 \dot{\alpha}^2}{6}. \quad (5)$$

In this equation, $J_1 = \frac{1}{3} M_1 L_1^2$ represents the rotary arm's moment of inertia about the fixed Z -axis. Consequently, the kinetic energy of RIP is ascertained by Eqs. (4) and (5), that is

$$E_k = E_{k1} + E_{k2} = \frac{M_1 L_1^2 \dot{\alpha}^2}{6} + \frac{L_1^2 M_2 \dot{\alpha}^2}{2} + \frac{L_1^2 M_2 \dot{\alpha}^2 (\sin \beta)^2}{6} + \frac{L_2^2 M_2 \dot{\beta}^2}{6} + \frac{L_1 L_2 M_2 \dot{\alpha} \dot{\beta} \cos \beta}{2}. \quad (6)$$

Define the plane $X'O'Y'$ as the reference plane. Around upright equilibrium, the potential energy E_p of the pendulum is

$$E_p = \frac{M_2 g L_2 \cos \beta}{2}. \quad (7)$$

Equations describing rotary arm and pendulum motions with respect to DC motor voltage are obtained by the Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial t \partial \dot{q}_i} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} = Q_i. \quad (8)$$

The Lagrangian function, L , can be inferred from Eqs. (6) and (7), which can be represented as $L = E_k - E_p$. In this case, the generalized coordinates are defined as $q_i = [\alpha(t), \beta(t)]^T$. Q_i represents

the non-potential forces of generalization that are exerted on the system in relation to the generalized coordinates, as follows:

$$\begin{cases} Q_1 = \tau - B_r \dot{\alpha}, \\ Q_2 = -B_p \dot{\beta}, \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

where B_r is the viscous friction coefficient of the motor, and B_p is the viscous damping coefficient of the pendulum [14,34]. The net output torque of the DC motor acting on the load is described by

$$\tau = \frac{K_t}{R_m} (V_m - K_m \dot{\alpha}). \quad (10)$$

In which, K_t is torque constant. R_m is the motor armature resistance. V_m is the armature input voltage. K_m is the motor-back EMF constant. Substituting Eqs. (6), (7), (9) and (10) into Eq. (8), the nonlinear dynamics model for the RIP system can be derived as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \left[\frac{L_1^2 M_1}{3} + L_1^2 M_2 + \frac{L_1^2 M_2 (\sin \beta)^2}{3} \right] \ddot{\alpha} + \left(\frac{K_t K_m}{R_m} + B_r \right) \dot{\alpha} + \frac{2L_1^2 M_2 \sin \beta \cos \beta}{3} \dot{\alpha} \dot{\beta} \\ + \frac{L_1 L_2 M_2 \cos \beta}{2} \ddot{\beta} - \frac{L_1 L_1 M_2 \sin \beta}{2} \dot{\beta}^2 = \frac{K_t V_m}{R_m}, \\ \frac{L_1 L_2 M_2 \cos \beta}{2} \ddot{\alpha} - \frac{L_1^2 M_2 \cos \beta \sin \beta}{3} \alpha^2 + \frac{L_2^2 M_2}{3} \ddot{\beta} + B_p \dot{\beta} - \frac{M_2 g L_2 \sin \beta}{2} = 0. \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

The state variables are defined as $\mathbf{x} = [x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3 \ x_4]^T = [\alpha \ \beta \ \dot{\alpha} \ \dot{\beta}]^T$. The upright equilibrium point can be expressed as $\mathbf{x}_r = [x_{1r} \ x_{2r} \ x_{3r} \ x_{4r}]^T = [\theta \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]^T$, where $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$ represents the desired arm angle. The system can be linearly approximated by resolving the Taylor expansion of Eq. (11) around \mathbf{x}_r . Disregarding the higher-order infinitesimal terms, the state-space expression can be derived as

$$\begin{matrix} \dot{\mathbf{x}} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 \\ \dot{x}_4 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} \mathbf{A} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} \\ 0 & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \mathbf{B} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ b_{31} \\ b_{41} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} V_m, \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{matrix} \mathbf{y} \\ \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} \mathbf{C} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \mathbf{D} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} V_m, \quad (13)$$

where \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} , \mathbf{C} and \mathbf{D} represent the linearized state-space matrices, and \mathbf{y} represents the measured output. Matrices \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} contain the following elements:

$$\begin{aligned}
a_{32} &= \frac{-9M_2g}{L_1(4M_1 + 3M_2)}, & a_{33} &= \frac{-12(K_t K_m + B_r R_m)}{L_1^2 R_m (4M_1 + 3M_2)}, & a_{34} &= \frac{18B_p}{L_1 L_2 (4M_1 + 3M_2)}, \\
a_{42} &= \frac{6g(M_1 + 3M_2)}{L_2(4M_1 + 3M_2)}, & a_{43} &= \frac{18(K_t K_m + B_r R_m)}{L_1 L_2 R_m (4M_1 + 3M_2)}, & a_{44} &= \frac{-12B_2(M_1 + 3M_2)}{L_2^2 M_2 (4M_1 + 3M_2)}, \\
b_{31} &= \frac{12K_t}{L_1^2 R_m (4M_1 + 3M_2)}, & b_{41} &= \frac{-18K_t}{R_m L_1 L_2 (4M_1 + 3M_2)}.
\end{aligned}$$

3 Controller and Reduced-Order Observer Design

The eigenvalues of matrix A clearly indicate that the RIP is an unstable system of type I, and x_r is an unstable equilibrium point. This implies that if the state variables x deviate from x_r , the single input multiple output (SIMO) system will not return to x_r without external input. Therefore, to progressively stabilize the system, it is necessary to design a suitable armature input voltage, i.e., V_m , which alters the properties of x_r .

3.1 LQR-Based Controller Design

As stated in Eqs. (12) and (13), let $u(t) = V_m(t)$, the state-space equation can be rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t), & (14) \\ y(t) = Cx(t) + Du(t). & (15) \end{cases}$$

In a closed-loop control system, the system input $u(t)$ is a function of the state variables. The system can be considered controllable and observable if and only if both matrices C_o and O_b have full ranks, where

$$C_o = [B \ AB \ A^2B \ A^3B], \quad O_b = [C \ CA \ CA^2 \ CA^3]^T.$$

Given the parameters listed in Table 1, matrices A , B and C can be calculated. Obviously, both matrices have a rank of 4, indicating controllability and observability of the dynamical system described by Eqs. (14) and (15).

Table 1: List of symbols and values used in RIP system modeling

Symbols	Description	Values	Units
M_1	Mass of rotary arm	0.095	kg
M_2	Mass of pendulum	0.024	kg
L_1	Length of rotary arm	0.085	m
L_2	Length of pendulum	0.129	m
α	Arm angle	–	rad
β	Pendulum angle	–	rad
B_r	Viscous friction coefficient of the motor	0.0015	N·m·s/rad
B_p	Viscous damping coefficient for the pendulum	0.0005	N·m·s/rad
K_t	Motor torque constant	0.042	N·m/A
K_m	Motor back EMF constant	0.042	V·s/rad
R_m	Armature resistance of motor	8.4	Ω

(Continued)

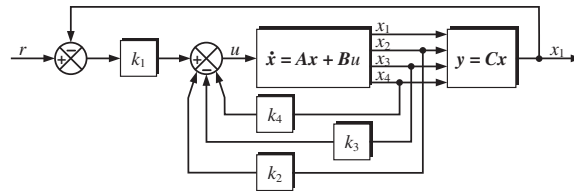
Table 1 (continued)

Symbols	Description	Values	Units
V_m	Motor armature voltage	–	V
g	Gravitational acceleration	9.8	m/s ²

For the Type I RIP system, its inherent underdriven characteristics dictate that $x_{2f} = x_{3f} = x_{4f} = 0$ is the unique equilibrium point. Although the RIP system is controllable, and the state variables x_2 , x_3 and x_4 can reach the desired values, it does not necessarily imply that they can be stabilized at those values. In fact, the pendulum remains unstable as long as x_2 , x_3 or x_4 are non-zero. Unlike the other variables, x_1 can be stabilized at any desired angle under the influence of the input signal $u(t)$. To achieve the target equilibrium point, we utilize the state feedback control scheme depicted in Fig. 3, which can be expressed as

$$u(t) = k_1(r - x_1) - [k_2 \quad k_3 \quad k_4] \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = -\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}(t) + k_1 r(t), \quad (16)$$

where \mathbf{K} is the state feedback gain (SFG) matrix, k_1 is the SFG of x_1 , $r(t)$ is the reference input of x_1 , i.e., the desired arm angle.

**Figure 3:** State feedback control scheme

The $u(t)$ is designed to perform two functions: adjusting the arm's equilibrium point and asymptotically stabilising it. The system dynamics can be determined from Eqs. (16) and (14) as $\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{BK})\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{B}k_1 r(t)$. Assuming that the system output $y = x_1$, when $t \rightarrow \infty$, the RIP is asymptotically stabilized by $u(t)$, while $y(\infty) \rightarrow r(\infty) = r(t)$. Let $\mathbf{e}(t) = \mathbf{x}(t) - \mathbf{x}(\infty)$, then we have $\dot{\mathbf{e}}(t) = \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) - \dot{\mathbf{x}}(\infty)$, and error dynamics can be described as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{e}}(t) = \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) - \dot{\mathbf{x}}(\infty) = (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{BK})\mathbf{e}(t), \\ u_e(t) = u(t) - u(\infty) = -\mathbf{K}\mathbf{e}(t). \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

The state matrix of closed-loop control systems can be expressed as $\mathbf{A}_{cl} = (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{BK})$. The comprehensive performance index (CPI) is an effective tool for analyzing and designing control systems, providing a means to quantify the performance of the system. In general, the system that attains an extreme (usually minimal) value of the CPI through system parameter adjustments is deemed optimal. If the system's CPI is denoted by \mathbf{J} , the objective here is to find a suitable \mathbf{K} that minimizes \mathbf{J} for any given initial condition $\mathbf{e}(0)$, while ensuring that all eigen roots of \mathbf{A}_{cl} possess negative real parts. Eq. (18) is the expression of the LQR, which is a commonly used CPI for linear control systems described by state variables.

$$\mathbf{J} = \int_0^{\infty} (\mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{e} + u_e^T \mathbf{R} u_e) dt = \int_0^{\infty} [\mathbf{e}^T (\mathbf{Q} + \mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{K}) \mathbf{e}] dt, \quad (18)$$

where \mathbf{Q} and \mathbf{R} are positive definite square weight matrices used to scale the relative contributions of quadratic terms $\mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{e}$ and $u_e^T \mathbf{R} u_e$, respectively. Suppose that \mathbf{P} is a matrix, which satisfies $(\mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{e})' = -\mathbf{e}^T (\mathbf{Q} + \mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{K}) \mathbf{e}$, with $t \rightarrow \infty$, $\mathbf{x}(t) \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_r$, and $\mathbf{e}(t) \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$. The algebraic form of Eq. (18) (i.e., the minimum of \mathbf{J}) can be obtained as

$$\mathbf{J} = - \int_0^{\infty} \frac{d(\mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{e})}{dt} dt = -\mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{e} \Big|_0^{\infty} = \mathbf{e}(0)^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{e}(0). \quad (19)$$

Moreover, it is worthwhile to note that along with Eq. (17) we also have $(\mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{e})' = \mathbf{e}^T (\mathbf{A}_{cl}^T \mathbf{P} + \mathbf{P} \mathbf{A}_{cl}) \mathbf{e}$. In view of the above analysis, Eq. (19) is valid if pending matrix \mathbf{P} can make

$$-(\mathbf{Q} + \mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{K}) = (\mathbf{A}_{cl}^T \mathbf{P} + \mathbf{P} \mathbf{A}_{cl}). \quad (20)$$

The Riccati equation [14,22,24] can be solved to yield the matrix \mathbf{P} . Then, this matrix can be substituted into Eq. (20) to determine the gain matrix \mathbf{K} , expressed as

$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{P}. \quad (21)$$

3.2 Reduced-Order Observer Design

Due to the installation environment or other factors, there might be a need for an observer to estimate states that cannot be directly measured. In this project, a reduced-order observer is constructed specifically to estimate states x_3 and x_4 . By dividing \mathbf{x} into a measurable \mathbf{x}_a and an unmeasurable \mathbf{x}_b , Eqs. (12) and (13) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{x}}_a(t) \\ \dot{\mathbf{x}}_b(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_{aa} & \mathbf{A}_{ab} \\ \mathbf{A}_{ba} & \mathbf{A}_{bb} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_a(t) \\ \mathbf{x}_b(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_a \\ \mathbf{B}_b \end{bmatrix} u(t), \quad (22)$$

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{(2)} & \mathbf{0}_{(2)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_a(t) \\ \mathbf{x}_b(t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (23)$$

where $\mathbf{I}_{(2)}$ represents a 2-dimensional identity matrix. Further expanded and organized to get

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}_b(t) = \mathbf{A}_{bb} \mathbf{x}_b(t) + \mathbf{A}_{ba} \mathbf{x}_a(t) + \mathbf{B}_b u(t), & (24) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{A}_{ab} \mathbf{x}_b(t) = \dot{\mathbf{x}}_a(t) - \mathbf{A}_{aa} \mathbf{x}_a(t) - \mathbf{B}_a u(t), & (25) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{x}_a(t). & (26) \end{cases}$$

The unmeasurable states can be interpreted through Eqs. (24) and (25), which serve as the dynamic differential equation and output equation, respectively. By utilizing the design methodology of the Luenberger full-order state observer and using error feedback between the measured and estimated output, a reduced-order observer for \mathbf{x}_b can be constructed as

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}}_b &= \mathbf{A}_{bb} \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_b + \mathbf{A}_{ba} \mathbf{x}_a + \mathbf{B}_b u + \mathbf{L} (\mathbf{A}_{ab} \mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{A}_{ab} \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_b) \\ &= (\mathbf{A}_{bb} - \mathbf{L} \mathbf{A}_{ab}) \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_b + \mathbf{A}_{ba} \mathbf{x}_a + \mathbf{B}_b u + \mathbf{L} (\dot{\mathbf{x}}_a - \mathbf{A}_{aa} \mathbf{x}_a - \mathbf{B}_a u), \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

where \mathbf{L} is the state observation gain matrix. It is essential to emphasize that \mathbf{x}_a must be differentiated to yield $\dot{\mathbf{x}}_a$. Considering the sensitivity of the differentiation session to noise, it is wise to eliminate $\dot{\mathbf{x}}_a$. Therefore, Eq. (27) can be rephrased as

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{\tilde{x}}_b - L\dot{x}_a &= (A_{bb} - LA_{ab})\tilde{x}_b + (A_{ba} - LA_{aa})x_a + B_b u - LB_a u \\
&= (A_{bb} - LA_{ab})\tilde{x}_b + (A_{bb} - LA_{ab})Ly - (A_{bb} - LA_{ab})Ly + (A_{ba} - LA_{aa})x_a + B_b u - LB_a u \\
&= (A_{bb} - LA_{ab})(\tilde{x}_b - Ly) + [(A_{bb} - LA_{ab})L + A_{ba} - LA_{aa}]y + (B_b - LB_a)u.
\end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

Define

$$\begin{cases} x_b - Lx_a = x_b - Ly = \eta, \\ \tilde{x}_b - Lx_a = \tilde{x}_b - Ly = \tilde{\eta}, \\ \dot{\tilde{x}}_b - L\dot{x}_a = \dot{\tilde{\eta}}, \\ \tilde{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_a \\ \tilde{x}_b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \tilde{x}_b \end{bmatrix}, \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} \hat{A} = A_{bb} - LA_{ab}, \\ \hat{B} = \hat{A}L + A_{ba} - LA_{aa}, \\ \hat{F} = B_b - LB_a, \\ \hat{C} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0}_{(2)} \\ I_{(2)} \end{bmatrix}, \hat{D} = \begin{bmatrix} I_{(2)} \\ L \end{bmatrix}. \end{cases} \tag{29}$$

The reduced-order observer can be derived by substituting Eq. (29) for Eq. (28)

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\tilde{\eta}} = \hat{A}\tilde{\eta} + \hat{B}y + \hat{F}u, \\ \tilde{x}_b = \tilde{\eta} + Ly, \\ \tilde{x} = \hat{C}\tilde{\eta} + \hat{D}y, \end{cases} \tag{30}$$

where the transformation relation from $\tilde{\eta}$ to \tilde{x} is presented in Eq. (32). By virtue of

$$u = -[K_a \quad K_b] \begin{bmatrix} x_a \\ \tilde{x}_b \end{bmatrix} + k_1 r = -[K_a \quad K_b] \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\eta} \\ \tilde{\eta} + Ly \end{bmatrix} + k_1 r = -(K_a y + K_b \tilde{\eta} + K_b Ly) + k_1 r, \tag{33}$$

Eq. (30) can be further derived as

$$\dot{\tilde{\eta}} = (\hat{A} - \hat{F}K_b)\tilde{\eta} + (\hat{B} - \hat{F}K_a - \hat{F}K_b L)y + \hat{F}k_1 r. \tag{34}$$

Define the observation error $e_b = x_b - \tilde{x}_b$, and subtract Eq. (27) from Eq. (24), we get

$$\dot{e}_b = \dot{x}_b - \dot{\tilde{x}}_b = (A_{bb} - LA_{ab})e_b = \hat{A}e_b. \tag{35}$$

It should be emphasized that the assumption of $e_b \rightarrow 0$ implies the absence of model error, an impossibility in practical applications. The gain matrix L depends on the eigen-equation $|\lambda I - (A_{bb} - LA_{ab})| = 0$, and the eigenvalue λ is not unique. In general, λ should be chosen such that the observer exhibits the following characteristics: (a). it asymptotically stabilizes the observer, as indicated by Eq. (34); (b). it maintains e_b within an acceptable range; (c). it ensures the rapid attenuation of e_b is at least 2 to 5 times faster than that of x_b . The substitution of Eq. (16) into Eq. (14) yields the following:

$$\dot{x} = Ax - BK\tilde{x} + Bk_1 r = Ax - BK \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x_a \\ x_b \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ e_b \end{bmatrix} \right\} + Bk_1 r = (A - BK)x + BK_b e_b + Bk_1 r. \tag{36}$$

Combining Eqs. (35) and (36), we get

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}(t) \\ \dot{e}_b(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (A - BK) & BK_b \\ \mathbf{0} & (A_{bb} - LA_{ab}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ e_b(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} Bk_1 \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} r(t). \tag{37}$$

By analyzing the dynamic properties of x_b and e_b by simulation, λ can be selected, and then L will be obtained by pole placement method.

4 Simulation and Validation

All the parameter symbols and values used in RIP system modeling are summarized in [Table 1](#).

4.1 Simulation

Using the values given in [Table 1](#), the system state equation is

$$\begin{matrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 \\ \dot{x}_4 \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} A \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -55.0963 & -6.2835 & 1.8159 \\ 0 & 168.4091 & 6.2104 & -5.5506 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} x \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} B \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 18.3728 \\ -18.1591 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} u. \quad (38)$$

LQR controller performance is dependent on the choice of weight matrices \mathbf{Q} and \mathbf{R} . Here \mathbf{Q} matrix is defined as $\mathbf{Q} = \text{diag}[q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4]$ where q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4 are the weight coefficients of state variables x_1 (arm angle), x_2 (pendulum angle), x_3 (arm velocity), x_4 (pendulum velocity), respectively. The weight of control input is considered as R , which is a scalar. Larger weight coefficients will give the variables corresponding to them a greater weight in the CPI, thus giving them a faster convergence rate. In the literature, many different approaches exist for the choice of weight matrix, e.g., Bryson's Rule. In this case, x_1 and x_2 are crucial, so q_1 and q_2 should be given a high weight. Conversely, q_3 and q_4 should be minimized because x_3 and x_4 are irrelevant. To test the effect of different weight matrices on controller performance, four groups of experiments are conducted using the same initial conditions as shown in [Table 2](#), and the simulation results are shown in [Fig. 4](#). Here, the area of the region formed by the state curve and the coordinate axes is calculated by $\int_0^t x_{1,2}^2(t) dx$, and the smaller the area, the faster convergence of the variables.

Table 2: Testing the controller performance with different weight matrices

Initial state $x(0)$	Test no.	Weight matrix		Integration of x_1, x_2 and u over the simulation interval		
		\mathbf{Q}	R	$\int_0^3 x_1^2 dx$	$\int_0^3 x_2^2 dx$	$\int_0^3 u dx$
$[-\frac{\pi}{20} \frac{\pi}{40} 0 0]^T$	1	diag [1, 1, 0.1, 0.1]	[1]	0.017	0.41×10^{-3}	0.2006
	2	diag [100, 1, 0.1, 0.1]		0.0018	0.35×10^{-3}	0.3376
	3	diag [1, 100, 0.1, 0.1]		0.0177	0.37×10^{-3}	0.204
	4	diag [15, 1, 0.1, 0.1]		0.004	0.40×10^{-3}	0.2528

The results show that x_2 has a smaller order of magnitude than x_1 and u , so increasing q_2 has a limited effect on x_2 . As q_2 grows, $\int_0^t u(t) dx$, i.e., system energy consumption, increases as well. It is obvious that x_1 is affected by q_1 , but in practical, a large q_1 will cause the controller to be overly sensitive to x_1 , resulting in vibration in the system. Considering the above reasons and after numerous trials, the system performed satisfactorily with $\mathbf{Q} = \text{diag}[15, 1, 0.1, 0.1]$ and $R = 1$. Matrix \mathbf{K} is solved by the LQR method, as described in [Subsection 3.1](#).

$$K = [-3.8730, -49.9263, -2.0590, -3.630].$$

At this point, the system is asymptotically stabilized for any given initial state. Combining the controller Eq. (33), the reduced-order observer Eq. (30), and the transformation relation $\tilde{\eta}$ to \tilde{x} Eq. (32), the control block diagram of the linear RIP system is shown in Fig. 5.

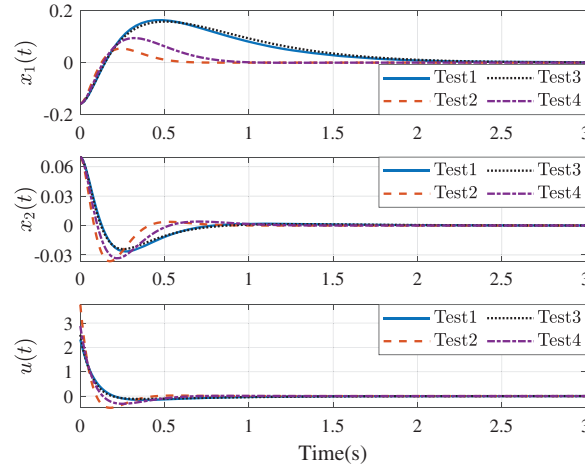


Figure 4: Simulation results of test experiments

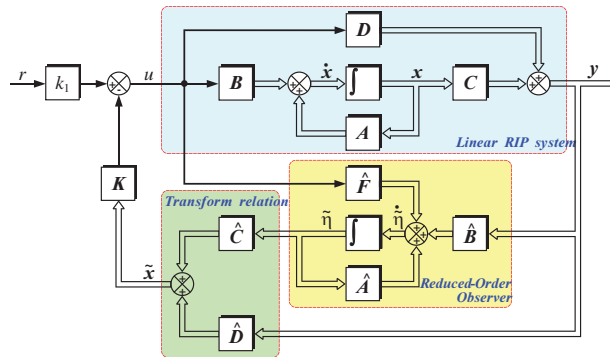


Figure 5: Control block diagram of the linear RIP system

The system, as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, exhibits asymptotic stability under the influence of $u(t)$ for any initial state (in this case $x(0) = [-\frac{\pi}{20} \frac{\pi}{45} 0 0]^T$) and converges to an equilibrium point at $x_f = [0 0 0 0]$. Fig. 6 illustrates an increase in x_1 over time, within the interval $t \in [0, 0.32)$. Correspondingly, Fig. 7 displays \dot{x}_1 , i.e., x_3 , which represents the rate of change of x_1 , and demonstrates $\dot{x}_1 > 0$ within the same time interval. However, when $t \geq 0.32$, x_1 decreases over time, so $\dot{x}_1 < 0$. This negative rate of change manifests itself as an undershoot in Fig. 7 for the corresponding time interval. A similar relationship can be observed between x_2 and \dot{x}_2 , i.e., x_4 .

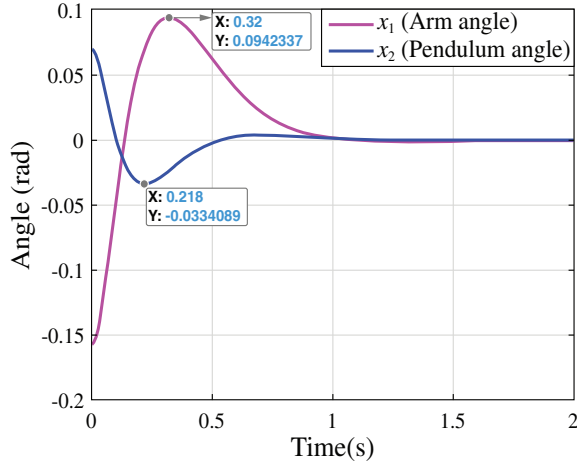


Figure 6: Angular response curves

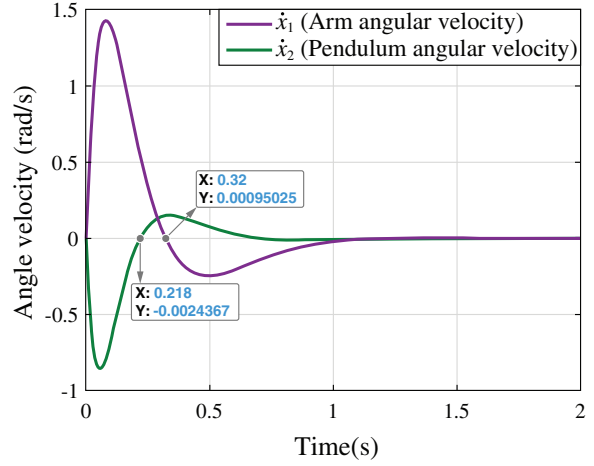


Figure 7: Angular velocity response curves

Eq. (37) can be used to determine the response curve for any given initial condition. In addition, the convergence rate of e_b as evident from Eq. (35) is influenced by the variation in L values, which are derived from the selection of different λ . Figs. 8 and 9 demonstrate observation of $x_b = [x_3 \ x_4]^T$ and convergence of $e_b = [e_{b1} \ e_{b2}]^T$, respectively, for the initial conditions of $x(0) = [-\frac{\pi}{20} \ \frac{\pi}{45} \ 1 \ 1]^T$, $e_b(0) = [1 \ 1]$ with

$$\lambda = [-22 \ -24], \quad L = \begin{bmatrix} 18.8890 & -10.9185 \\ -3.1918 & 21.0601 \end{bmatrix}.$$

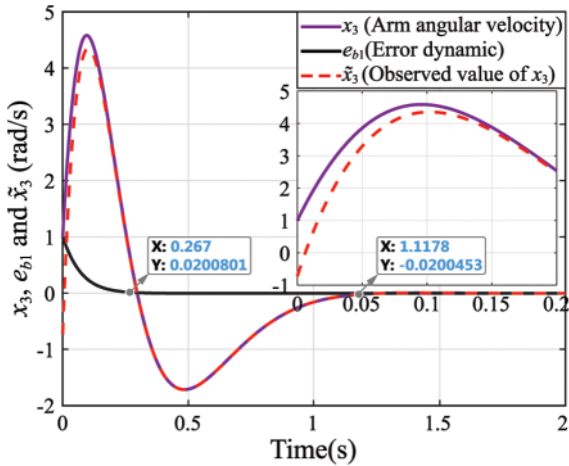


Figure 8: The observation and error dynamic of x_3

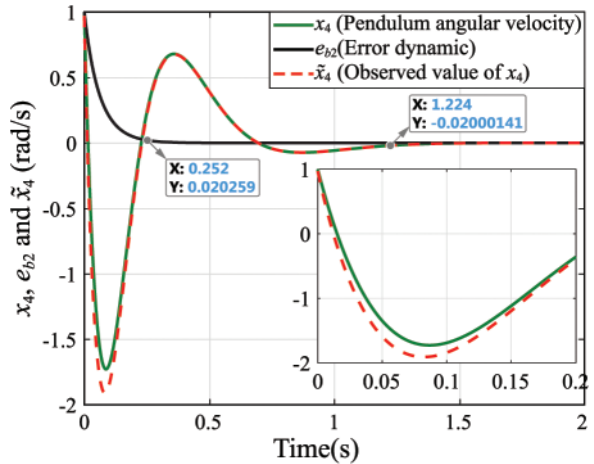


Figure 9: The observation and error dynamic of x_4

The desired arm angle is defined as $r(t) = \frac{\pi}{4}[\varepsilon(t) - \varepsilon(t-10)] - \frac{\pi}{3}\varepsilon(t-20) + \frac{5\pi}{6}\varepsilon(t-30) - \varepsilon(t-40)$ for $t \in [0, 40]$, where $\varepsilon(t)$ represents the unit step signal. Figs. 10 and 11 illustrate the tracking result of α and the transition process of β as α varies, respectively. Analysis of these figures reveals that the

forward overshooting of α is minimal. However, reverse overshooting occurs with 9.66% of the step amplitude before each step. It is not difficult to understand, because the arm rotates while taking into account the balance of the pendulum. Before the arm rotates, the pendulum must be diverted away from equilibrium along the arm rotation, and the pendulum is brought back to equilibrium as the arm rotates to the target position. Therefore, in order to divert the pendulum from the equilibrium position, the arm must be first rotated in the reverse direction by a specific angle before it is rotated to the desired position.

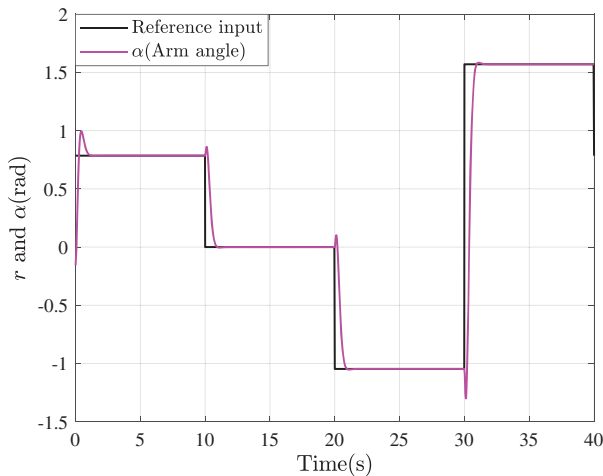


Figure 10: The desired signal and position tracking

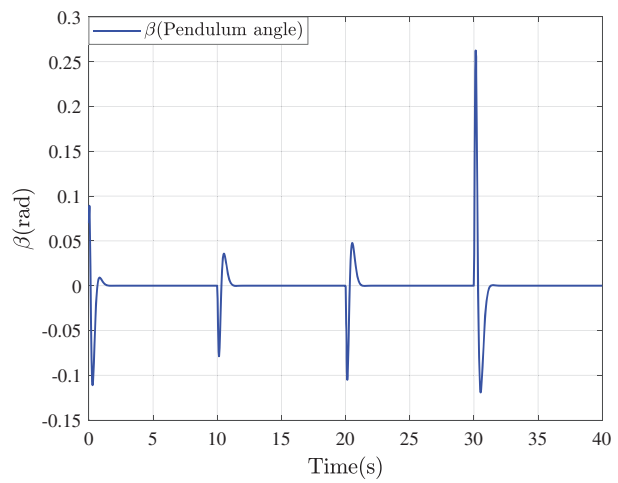


Figure 11: Variation of β with α

4.2 Hardware Implementation and Validation

4.2.1 Experimental Setup

This method is validated with the Quanser QNET 2.0 RIP Board. Fig. 12 shows the system connection and front-end panel, which serve as the user interface for displaying state variation and controlling the application. The rotary arm is driven by a direct-drive 18 V brushed DC motor housed in a solid aluminum frame. Real-time variations in α and β are measured via rotary encoders commissioned at the motor's shaft and pendulum's pivot, respectively. The data samples are acquired at 200 Hz using the NI ELVIS II⁽⁺⁾ data acquisition system. Using the block diagram tool in LabVIEW software, the customized control application is implemented as a visual instrument file, and the mathematical objects are acquired from its function palette. Control signals are serially transmitted to a Pulse-Width-Modulated (PWM) amplifier, which translates incoming signals into PWM commands and drives the DC motor.

On this platform, two distinct experiments were conducted. The first experiment focused on examining the balance and disturbance rejection capabilities of the system following the pendulum's swing up to the upright position. The second experiment concentrated on assessing the tracking control performance.

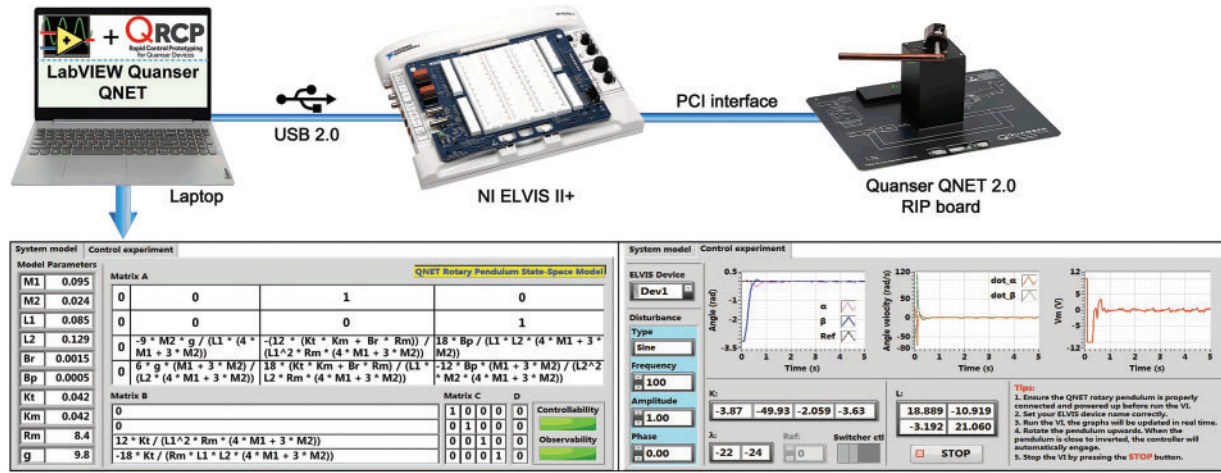


Figure 12: The system connection and front-end panel

4.2.2 Balance Control

The experimental parameters used are consistent with those employed in the numerical simulation. Due to the manual erection and stabilization of the pendulum before each experiment, the initial conditions for activating balance control are random. Consequently, the data recording starts from the 5th second, as shown in Figs. 13 to 16. The controller’s capability to withstand mechanical vibration or process noise is evaluated by injecting sinusoidal and random signals of different frequencies and low-amplitude. In Fig. 13, the disturbance $d_1(t)$ is set as a random signal of 0.5 amplitude and 10 Hz frequency. The disturbance in Fig. 14 is determined by $d_2(t) = 1.5 \sin(2\pi t)$. The variables of α and β with time are shown in Figs. 15 and 16 for increasing the frequencies of $d_1(t)$ and $d_2(t)$ to 50, 100 and 200 Hz, respectively. As a result, it can be seen that the proposed controller maintains the RIP balance under low-amplitude disturbances. In addition, since differential terms are eliminated in the observer design, the controller’s sensitivity to disturbances decreases as its frequency increases. In several experiments, low-amplitude interference signals with frequencies greater than 50 Hz have no significant impact on this controller.

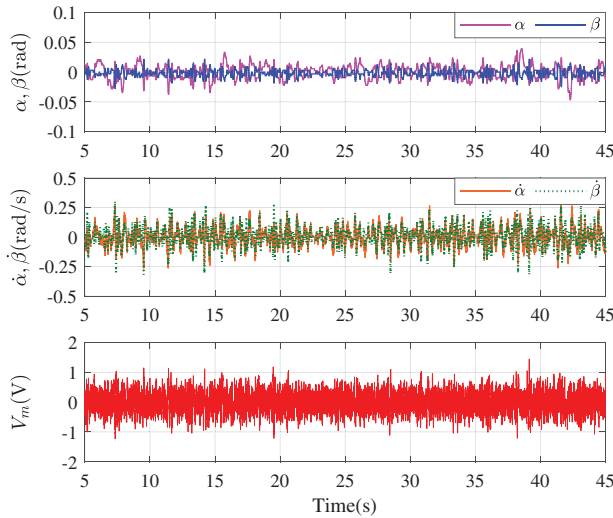


Figure 13: Disturbance $d_1(t)$ injection response

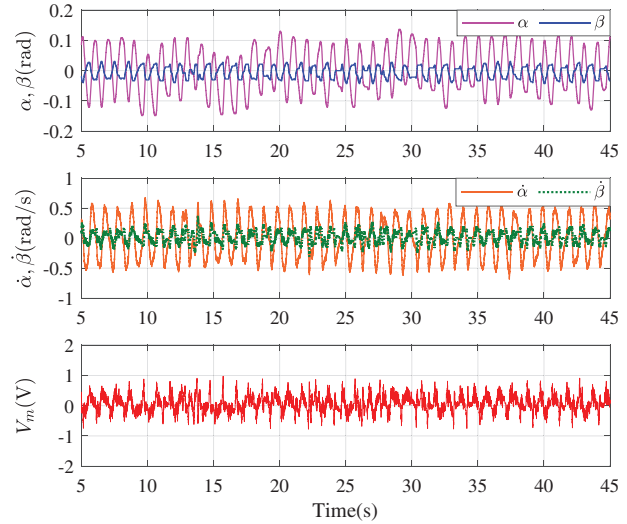


Figure 14: Disturbance $d_2(t)$ injection response

4.2.3 Tracking Control

The desired arm angle in the tracking control experiment is set to $r(t) = \frac{\pi}{4}[\varepsilon(t - 5) - \varepsilon(t - 15)] - \frac{\pi}{3}\varepsilon(t - 25) + \frac{4\pi}{9}\varepsilon(t - 35) - \varepsilon(t - 45)$ for $t \in [0, 40]$, where $\varepsilon(t)$ is the unit step signal. The experimental results of tracking control are depicted in Fig. 17. Different from the simulation, it was observed that the step amplitude in the penultimate term is reduced from $\frac{5\pi}{6}$ to $\frac{4\pi}{9}$, expect for the step time delay of 5 s. The larger arm step amplitude necessitates a greater reverse overshoot prior to initiating the step. However, in this experiment, it was observed that the pendulum fails to return to equilibrium when the arm's step amplitude exceeds 1.4 rad. This corresponds to a reverse overshoot that is approximately greater than 0.3 rad.

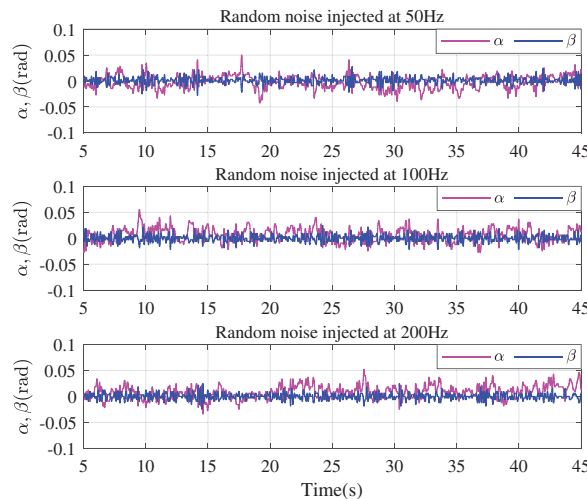


Figure 15: $d_1(t)$: Different frequencies are injected

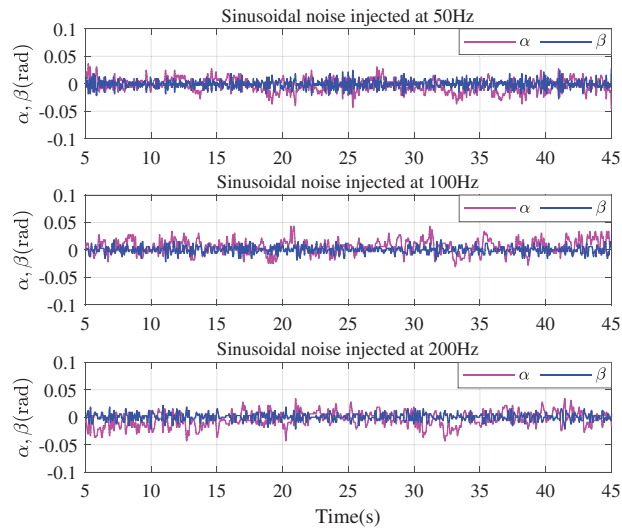


Figure 16: $d_2(t)$: Different frequencies are injected

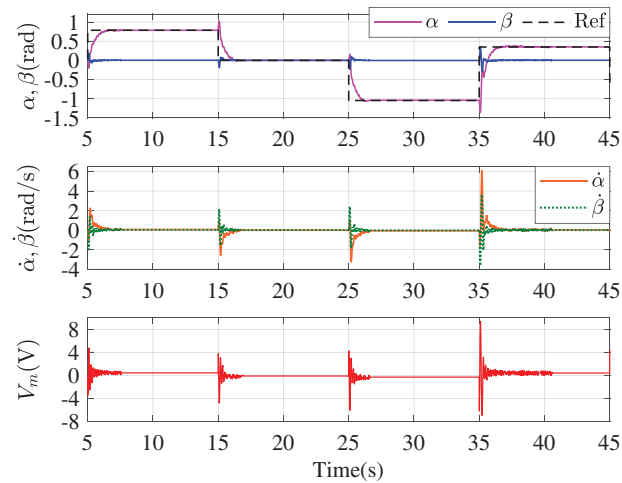


Figure 17: The tracking control results

5 Conclusion

This paper presents a reduced-order observer technique to estimate unmeasurable state variables and integrate these estimates into a full-state feedback controller for RIP. By combining estimation with measurement, a state feedback controller for RIP is designed based on the LQR technique. The conclusion is summarized as follows:

- (1) Numerical simulations show that the theoretically established linear controller is able to stabilize the system rapidly.
- (2) The balance control experiment confirmed that the RIP can be balanced below 50 Hz and tracked well below 1.4 rad.

In summary, the controller demonstrates proficient performance in balance stabilization and trajectory tracking, showcasing robustness against low-amplitude, high-frequency disturbances. These

outcomes suggest that the proposed framework effectively contributes to both RIP balancing and tracking, offering novel theoretical insights and practical applications for industrial use.

While this study primarily addresses linear control theory, the precise control of mechanical systems warrants further exploration in the realm of nonlinear control algorithms. Consequently, future work will delve into nonlinear control algorithms for underactuated systems.

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Availability of Data and Materials: The datasets generated and/or analyzed during this study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to report regarding the present study.

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