

**A Framework for Generalized  
Sampled-Data Control Systems and Its  
Application to Convergence Analysis<sup>†</sup>**

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# A framework for generalized sampled-data control systems and its application to convergence analysis

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## Abstract

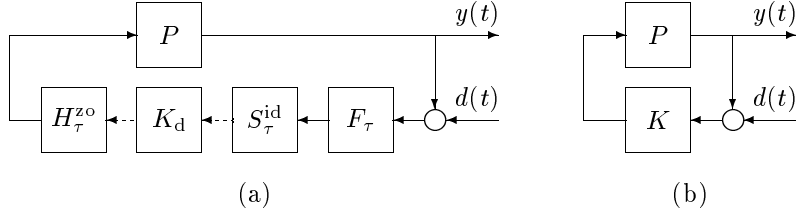
This paper presents a framework for sampled-data control systems with generalized samplers and holds. This framework is advantageous in the point that it covers a large class of generalized samplers and holds and also in the point that it treats samplers and holds in a symmetrical manner. Using this framework, converging and non-converging properties of sampled-data control are investigated. The best achievable performance of sampled-data control does not always converge to that of time-invariant continuous-time control as a sampling period approaches zero. This paper shows that the non-converging phenomenon occurs when a sampled-data system includes an anti-aliasing filter whose bandwidth is proportional to the Nyquist frequency or when it does not include an anti-aliasing filter. Moreover, this paper proves that one can avoid this non-converging phenomenon for almost all  $G$  using a special sampler-hold pair.

## 1. Introduction

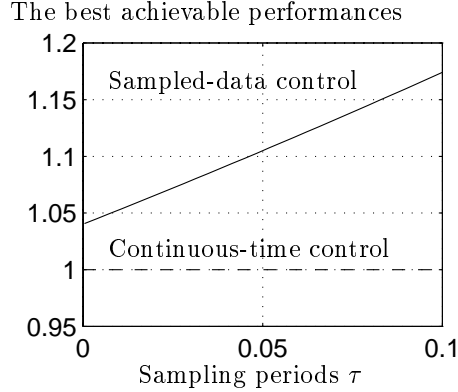
Intuitively, it seems obvious that the best achievable performance of sampled-data control converges to that of time-invariant continuous-time control as a sampling period tends to zero. Recently, this intuition is shown to hold in the  $\mathcal{H}^2$ -setting [15, 16] and in the  $\mathcal{H}^\infty$ -setting [6, 12] for some special cases. However, there exists an easy example where this intuition does not hold.

**Example 1.** Let us control a plant  $P$ , whose transfer function is  $1/(s - 1)$ , using sampled-data control and continuous-time control as shown in Figure 1. The purpose of control is to minimize the effect that the sensor noise  $d(t)$  gives to the plant output  $y(t)$  in the sense of the  $\mathcal{L}^2$ -induced norm. Here, we let  $K_d$  be a discrete-time controller having a time-invariant discrete-time state-space representation, while we let  $K$  be a continuous-time controller described by a time-invariant continuous-time state-space representation. The symbols  $S_\tau^{\text{id}}$  and  $H_\tau^{\text{zo}}$  denote the ideal sampler and the zero-order hold, respectively; both having a sampling period  $\tau > 0$ . Moreover,  $F_\tau$  is a low-pass filter whose transfer function is  $1/(\tau s + 1)$ .

The low-pass filter  $F_\tau$  is introduced to represent two situations. In the first situation,  $F_\tau$  stands for an anti-aliasing filter inserted to cut off unpreferable aliases. Since these aliases appear mostly at higher frequencies than the Nyquist frequency  $\pi/\tau$ , the bandwidth of  $F_\tau$  is taken proportionally to  $1/\tau$ . In the second situation, while no anti-aliasing filter exists, a more precise model than the ideal sampler  $S_\tau^{\text{id}}$  is used for a sampler. Being different from  $S_\tau^{\text{id}}$ , a physically realizable sampler integrates the input signal for a short but finite period of time. If we assume that this integration period is proportional to the sampling period  $\tau$ , combination of  $F_\tau$  and  $S_\tau^{\text{id}}$  reflects properties of an actual sampler better than  $S_\tau^{\text{id}}$  itself.



**Figure 1.** Two methods to control  $P$ : (a) sampled-data control; (b) time-invariant continuous-time control.



**Figure 2.** The best achievable performances of the two control methods, which are measured by the  $\mathcal{L}^2$ -induced norms.

Figure 2 shows simulation results. We consider the operators from  $d(t)$  to  $y(t)$ , minimize their  $\mathcal{L}^2$ -induced norms by tuning  $K_d$  and  $K$ , respectively, and plot the achieved infima. We can see the performance of sampled-data control does not converge to that of continuous-time control as the sampling period approaches zero.  $\square$

This example shows that the above-mentioned intuition is not always correct and implies that we should be careful in applying sampled-data control. Therefore, we want to clarify why this phenomenon occurs and how it can be avoided.

We start by investigating basic properties of sampled-data systems equipped with generalized samplers and holds. Note that combination of  $F_\tau$  and  $S_\tau^{\text{id}}$  is a sort of generalized sampler because it converts a continuous-time signal to a discrete-time signal. In fact, using basic properties of this type of systems, we can explain why the observed non-converging phenomenon occurs. Furthermore, we consider how we can prevent the phenomenon.

Another objective of this paper is to present a framework for sampled-data systems with generalized samplers and holds. There is a number of papers on generalized samplers and holds (for example, [1, 9, 10]). Compared with these papers, our framework is useful in the point that it can treat a large class of samplers and holds and in the point that it is symmetrical to samplers and holds.

A part of the results of this paper has been reported in [13, 14].

The notation used in this paper is as follows. The imaginary unit is denoted by  $i$ . The symbol  $\ell^2$  means the set of square-summable sequences. It may be one-sided or two-sided depending on the context. We let  $\mathcal{L}^2$  and  $\mathcal{L}^2[0, \tau)$  express the sets of Lebesgue square integrable functions defined on  $[0, \infty)$  and  $[0, \tau)$ , respectively. The symbol  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes the  $\mathcal{L}^2$ -induced norm unless specified in other way. Let  $\mathcal{H}^\infty$  be a Hardy space and write its norm as  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}^\infty}$ . An element of  $\mathcal{H}^\infty$  may be a matrix-valued function. The set  $\mathcal{RH}^\infty$  is a subset of  $\mathcal{H}^\infty$  and consists of real rational functions only. For a time-invariant continuous-time

operator  $F$ , its transfer function is defined based on the Laplace transform and is written as  $\widehat{F}(s)$ ; for a time-invariant discrete-time operator  $F_d$ , its transfer function is written as  $\check{F}_d(z)$ , which is defined from the  $z$ -transform. Here,  $z$  corresponds to the unit-time advance operator. Finally,  $\mathcal{F}(G, K)$  is the lower linear fractional transform and is defined as  $\mathcal{F}(G, K) := G_{11} + G_{12}K(I - G_{22}K)^{-1}G_{21}$ .

## 2. Sampled-Data Control Systems

## 3. Lifting-Based Transfer Functions and Their Properties

## 4. Converging and Non-Converging Properties

## 5. Conclusion

In this paper, we introduced a framework for sampled-data control systems with generalized samplers and holds and investigated basic properties of these systems. Using these properties, we considered when the best achievable performance of sampled-data control systems converges to that of time-invariant continuous-time control systems and when it does not.

Our framework is useful because it covers many practical samplers and holds. Besides, it treats samplers and holds in a symmetrical manner. These advantages are expected to be helpful in considering other advanced problems on sampled-data control such as optimization of samplers and holds.

In the past researches on a sampled-data  $\mathcal{H}^\infty$ -control theory, insertion of anti-aliasing filters seems to be introduced only for theoretical convenience [1, 2, 3, 4, 18]. However, our results showed that an appropriate choice of the filter has practical importance. Especially, we should remember that the non-converging phenomenon possibly occurs when we determine an anti-aliasing filter according to the sampling period or when we use no anti-aliasing filter. This paper gives a mathematical basis for such an analysis of filters.

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