

Examiner Report for D.K. Nguyen's Doctoral thesis

General comments on thesis

Contents

The candidate demonstrates the ability to conceptualise, but more attention needs to be paid to introducing and clearly identifying the research problem – indeed this is one of the two major weaknesses of this thesis.

The results are presented in a cogent form with suitable illustration. In many ways it resembles the style of a paper in systems journals. Having said that, it is far from concise. Perhaps this could have been improved by moving some of the proofs of theorems to appendices. The diagrams are also generally very small and it is difficult to resolve some of the fine detail of the dynamic features.

The thesis is a distinct contribution to knowledge, although this could be better stressed – particularly in the abstract and the introduction.

The contents are sufficiently substantial to allow coverage of the field, with the above caveat regarding the weakness of the abstract and introduction in setting the context.

The thesis contains material that is suitable for publication in the control literature, although only two conference publications are listed in the bibliography.

Knowledge

The candidate exhibits sufficient knowledge of the research topic and familiarity with the discipline of electrical engineering at the doctoral level.

A capacity for clear thinking is demonstrated.

Mastery of advanced design techniques for sliding mode control is demonstrated.

Presentation

The work represents a well-planned approach to the subject matter.

The thesis is structured appropriately.

As mentioned above, the candidate does only a fair job of appropriately orienting the reader to the ground to be covered because of the weakness of the abstract and introduction sections.

The general appearance of the thesis is adequate. However the grammar, spelling and punctuation of the thesis are not adequate, and constitute the second major weakness of the thesis.