

Performance of 3D PPN against Arbitrarily Maneuvering Target for Homing Phase

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Abstract—The performance analysis of the three-dimensional (3D) pure proportional navigation (PPN) guidance law was traditionally conducted by considering the cross-coupling effect of two independent two-dimensional (2D) PPN laws in the pitch and yaw planes. This could increase the complexity of the analysis and lead to conservative analysis results, especially when the target has maneuverability. To mitigate this issue, this paper theoretically analyses the performance of 3D PPN directly on a rotating engagement plane using a Lyapunov-like approach. Considering practical issues, the analysis includes not only capturability, but also upper-bounds of heading error, line-of-sight (LOS) rate, commanded acceleration, and closing speed. The analysis results obtained are also demonstrated by using numerical simulation examples. Compared to the previous studies providing the least conservative results, the analysis procedure is significantly simplified and the results are proven to be more practical and less conservative.

Index Terms—Homing missile guidance, 3D PPN, Performance analysis, Arbitrarily maneuvering target, Lyapunov-like approach.

I. INTRODUCTION

PROPORTIONAL Navigation (PN) has been widely accepted for homing missiles due to its robustness and ease of application since its inception in 1940s [1]. The principle of PN is that the commanded acceleration is proportional to the line of sight (LOS) angular rate and hence the rotation of the LOS is restrained, then the relative status between the missile and target is forced to approach the collision triangle condition.

True Proportional Navigation (TPN) [2], [3] and Pure Proportional Navigation (PPN) [4]–[9] are two main PN guidance laws. Commanded acceleration in TPN is normal to LOS, whereas that of PPN is perpendicular to the missile velocity vector. Compared to TPN, it is relatively difficult to deal with the nonlinearity of the engagement dynamics in PPN. This nonlinearity issue made the performance analysis of PPN challenging and led to a few sophisticated mathematical tools

for the analysis. Qualitative methods [4]–[7] or linearization methods [8], [9] were natural techniques used to cope with the nonlinearity issue in the performance analysis of PPN. Linearization methods are also used to analyze the performance of TPN, such as [10]–[12].

Most of the performance analyses of PPN assumed the speed superiority of the missile over that of the target. Tyan [13], [14] recently investigated the capture region of three-dimensional (3D) PPN against a nonmaneuvering target whose speed is larger than the missile speed. The capture region obtained is of an airfoil shape, which shrinks as the navigation gain of 3D PPN decreases. Tyan [15] further studied the capture region of 3D PPN against a high-speed and nonmaneuvering target under the existence of an observing lag of the LOS rate. Prasanna and Ghose [16] proposed the retro proportional navigation (RPN) in two-dimensional (2D) plane for the purpose of intercepting high speed targets. Ghosh *et al.* [17] extended RPN in three-dimensional (3D) space and analyzed its capturability against high-speed nonmaneuvering targets. Later, Ghosh *et al.* [18] proposed composite PN guidance law to achieve the interception of high-speed nonmaneuvering targets with impact angle constraints. These performance analyses of 3D PPN against high speed targets are constrained to the case of nonmaneuvering targets. Recently, Tyan [19], [20] proposed a new approach to examine the capture region, time-to-go, cost, and impact angle of 3D PPN against nonmaneuvering target by using the angle of relative velocity.

Target maneuvers introduce additional nonlinearities to the engagement problem and consequently additional complexity to the performance analysis of PPN. To tackle with the additional complexity, Ha *et al.* [21] proposed a Lyapunov-like approach and analyzed the performance of PPN against a randomly maneuvering target. Kim *et al.* [22] later used the Lyapunov-like method to analyze Biased Proportional Navigation (BPN) with a terminal angle constraint. However, these analyses only considered 2D PPN. As target maneuvers generally result in rotation of the engagement plane, the PPN engagement problem against a maneuvering target is most likely to become 3D.

Song and Ha [23] first extended the Lyapunov-like approach to 3D space for the performance analysis of 3D PPN against an arbitrarily maneuvering target. The analysis includes the capturability, intercept time, and maximum overload of 3D PPN, when there is an initial heading error. Since their analysis of 3D PPN was conducted by first considering the pitch and yaw planes separately and then taking the cross-coupling effect

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into account, the content was complex and many redundant variables were involved. Consequently, the conclusions made in their analysis were somewhat conservative. The analysis results in [21] and [23] were under the assumption that the missile speed is larger than that of the target. Moreover, the results showed that, when the target speed is close to the missile speed, the initial heading error should be smaller than a certain value which may become too stringent to be practical. Based on the Lyapunov-like approach, Oh and Ha [24] proved that, with certain conditions on the navigation gain and the speed ratio between the missile and target, the missile guided by 3D PPN can intercept the target regardless of initial engagement and target acceleration conditions. Later, Oh [25] proved that the capture condition of 2D PPN against arbitrarily maneuvering target is a large-than-one navigation gain, when the missile is with speed advantage. Recently, K. B. Li *et al.* [26] extended Oh's result to the case of 3D PPN. According to our knowledge, this is the most general result about PPN's capturability thus far. However, in [24]~[26], it is not strictly required that the closing speed between the missile and target is always negative. Hence, the required commanded acceleration of PPN to guarantee the capture of target might become extremely large. Besides, an excessive initial heading error or target acceleration may induce a large overload and a long intercept time, which is pragmatically undesirable.

Despite of extensive studies on the performance analysis of PPN, it is evident that there still exist wide discrepancies between the analysis results and the actual performance of 3D PPN. In order to close the discrepancies, this study aims to improve the performance analysis of 3D PPN against an arbitrarily maneuvering target with bounded acceleration. The analysis is conducted under an acceptable initial heading error in the case where the missile has a speed advantage over the target. Since it has been shown that the Lyapunov-like approach is useful in examining the performance of PPN and/or other guidance laws from previous studies [21]~[24], the analysis is also based on the Lyapunov-like approach.

This paper utilizes a rotating LOS coordinate system [1], which was also used by Tyan [13]~[15], [19], [20], [27]~[29] to analyze the performance of PN guidance laws. In Tyan's papers the rotating LOS system is named of LOS fixed coordinate system. However, since it is a moving coordinate system which perfectly shows the rotational principle of the LOS in 3D space, it is called LOS rotation coordinate (LRC) system in this paper. Establishing the kinematic equations in the LRC system relaxes the complexity in the description of the 3D relative motion. It significantly simplifies the analysis process and removes the involvement of redundant variables in the analysis. This analysis framework can also be readily extended to other type of guidance laws [30]~[36].

The main contributions of this paper are that:

1) The LRC system is utilized to analyze the 3D relative motion between the missile and the target. The deduced relative kinematic equation becomes quite simple, and the number of involved variables to analyze the performance of 3D PPN is greatly reduced. This makes it possible to obtain less conservative and more general performance analysis results

compared with previous literatures.

2) The selection range of the navigation gain of 3D PPN to guarantee the capturability of an arbitrarily maneuvering target is advanced, which is theoretically less conservative than previous results. Furthermore, the selection ranges of the navigation gain of 3D PPN against the arbitrarily maneuvering target to guarantee the boundedness of 3D LOS angular rate, commanded acceleration, and heading error are presented, respectively. The obtained results are also less conservative than previous results.

3) With the proposed performance analysis results given in this paper, one could properly select the navigation gain of 3D PPN for a missile against an arbitrarily maneuvering target, when the missile maneuverability is limited and the target maneuverability could be previous estimated. Then, the capture of the target could be guaranteed. Besides, the heading error and the commanded acceleration will not exceed the physical limitations of the missile.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section II, preliminaries including 3D interception geometry, relative kinematics, and research assumptions are addressed. Section III provides the main performance analysis results and compares them to the least conservative results from previous results. Finally, Section V concludes this study after validating the results of the performance analysis by demonstrating results from numerical simulations in Section IV.

II. PRELIMINARY

Traditionally, the 3D pursuit is handled by constructing two independent guidance laws in the pitch and yaw planes of the missile and taking their cross-coupling effect into account. This approach may complicate the description of the relative motion due to the cross-coupling effect and introduce some auxiliary variables to the 3D pursuit problem.

Establishing the kinematic equations in the LRC system could ease the complexity in the description of the 3D relative motion. The relative motion in the LRC system can be divided into two decoupled submotions: 1) the relative motion in the engagement plane spanned by the relative position and velocity vectors and 2) the rotation of this plane. In this paper, these kinematic equations will be used to analyze the performance of 3D PPN.

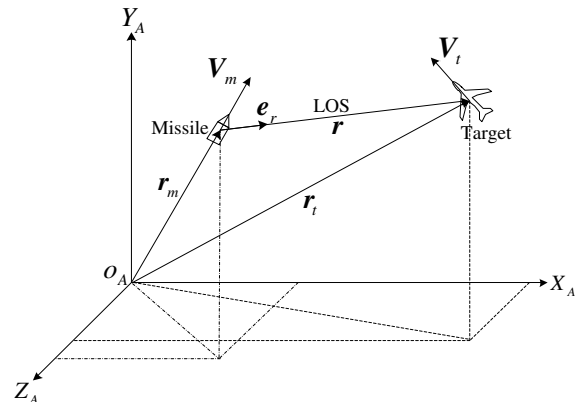


Fig. 1. Three-dimensional engagement geometry.

where $\alpha(>0)$ denotes the bound of the target acceleration. Throughout the paper, subscript “0” on variables means the initial condition of those variables.

The geometric relationship between \mathbf{t}_m (or \mathbf{t}_t) and \mathbf{e}_r is shown in Fig. 2.

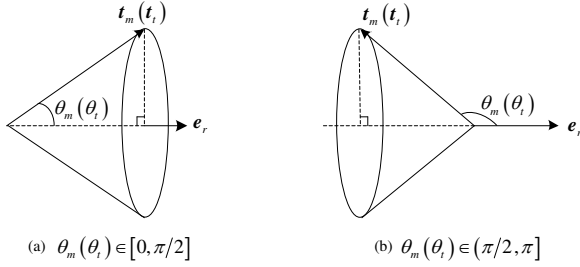


Fig. 2. Two types of relationships between the directions of missile (target) velocity and LOS.

From Fig. 2, θ_m and θ_t are defined as the angles satisfying the following conditions:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_r = \cos \theta_m \\ \mathbf{t}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_r = \cos \theta_t \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

If $\cos \theta_m > 0$, then the missile is flying towards the target. Otherwise, the missile is moving away from the target.

When the missile is flying away from the target, the most important thing is to turn the missile back to make it fly towards the target. This issue had been well discussed in the appendix of Ref. [24] and could be solved by selecting a proper navigation gain. Hence, in this paper the situation is mainly discussed where the missile is initially flying towards the target like in the homing guidance, i.e.,

$$A7) \quad \mathbf{t}_{m0} \cdot \mathbf{e}_{r0} = \cos \theta_{m0} > 0 \Leftrightarrow \theta_{m0} \in [0, \pi/2) \quad (19)$$

Now, let us define \mathbf{m} and \mathbf{t} as:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{m} = \mathbf{e}_r \times (\mathbf{t}_m \times \mathbf{e}_r) = \mathbf{t}_m - (\mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_r) \mathbf{e}_r \\ \mathbf{t} = \mathbf{e}_r \times (\mathbf{t}_t \times \mathbf{e}_r) = \mathbf{t}_t - (\mathbf{t}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_r) \mathbf{e}_r \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

Since, from the definition, $\theta_m, \theta_t \in [0, \pi]$, it has:

$$\begin{cases} |\mathbf{m}| = \sin \theta_m \\ |\mathbf{t}| = \sin \theta_t \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

It can be easily seen that, \mathbf{m} and \mathbf{t} lie in the plane perpendicular to LOS, which was called “the LOS plane” in Ref. [24]. The angle between \mathbf{m} and \mathbf{t} is denoted as Θ which belongs to $[0, \pi]$ in this paper. Then,

$$\cos \Theta = \frac{\mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{t}}{|\mathbf{m}| |\mathbf{t}|} = \frac{\mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{t}_t - \cos \theta_m \cos \theta_t}{\sin \theta_m \sin \theta_t} \quad (22)$$

From the above definitions and assumptions made in this section, the following kinematics can be obtained:

$$\dot{r} = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{e}_r = v_m (\rho \mathbf{t}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_r - \mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_r) = v_m (\rho \cos \theta_t - \cos \theta_m) \quad (23)$$

$$\begin{aligned} v_\theta &= \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta = v_m [\rho (\mathbf{t}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta) - (\mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta)] \\ &= v_m (\rho \mathbf{t} - \mathbf{m}) \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta = v_m |\rho \mathbf{t} - \mathbf{m}| \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

In the following section, the performance of 3D PPN against the arbitrarily maneuvering target will be deeply analyzed using the Lyapunov-like approach as used in [2], [3], [21]–[24],

[33], and [34].

III. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

When one investigates the performance of 3D PPN, besides capturability, there are a couple of practical constraints that need to be theoretically addressed. The first issue is that, for most of missiles, the field of view (FOV) is restricted in a certain range. If the heading error becomes too large, the physical limitation on FOV might be violated and consequently the missile may lose the track of the target during the engagement. Another issue is that, in some simulation results, if the navigation gain is too small, the commanded acceleration may become too large beyond the physical acceleration limit of the missile. Besides, it is undesirable to have positive closing speed during the engagement. Therefore, this section focuses on investigating not only the capturability, but also characteristics of heading error, LOS rate, commanded acceleration, and closing speed in 3D PPN. Although commonly the navigation gain of PPN, i.e., N , is assumed to be constant, however, in this section N is supposed to be time-varying and continuous during the guidance process.

A. Missile Lead Angle

The following Lemma 1 investigates the range of θ_m in 3D PPN against a maneuvering target, which is very important for the performance analysis of 3D PPN.

Lemma 1: Suppose that the assumptions A1)–A7) hold and the navigation gain $N(t) > 1$. Then, the commanded acceleration of 3D PPN represented in Eqn. (13) guarantees $\theta_m(t)$ such that:

$$\theta_m(t) \leq \max \left\{ \theta_{m0}, \tan^{-1} \left(\rho / \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \right) \right\}, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (25)$$

Proof: The first time derivative of $\cos \theta_m$ defined in Eqn. (18) is obtained as:

$$\frac{d(\cos \theta_m)}{dt} = \dot{\mathbf{t}}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_r + \mathbf{t}_m \cdot \dot{\mathbf{e}}_r \quad (26)$$

Here, $\dot{\mathbf{t}}_m$ is given by:

$$\dot{\mathbf{t}}_m = \frac{\mathbf{a}_m}{v_m} = N \omega_s [(\mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_r) \mathbf{e}_\theta - (\mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta) \mathbf{e}_r] \quad (27)$$

and $\dot{\mathbf{e}}_r = \omega_s \mathbf{e}_\theta$ as defined in the second equation of Eqn. (9).

Hence:

$$\frac{d(\cos \theta_m)}{dt} = (1 - N) \omega_s \mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta \quad (28)$$

From Eqns. (6) and (24), it has:

$$\mathbf{e}_\theta = \frac{v_m}{r \omega_s} (\rho \mathbf{t} - \mathbf{m}) \quad (29)$$

Hence:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta &= \frac{v_m}{r \omega_s} \mathbf{t}_m \cdot (\rho \mathbf{t} - \mathbf{m}) \\ &= \frac{v_m}{r \omega_s} \sin \theta_m (\rho \sin \theta_t \cos \Theta - \sin \theta_m) \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

Putting Eqn. (30) into Eqn. (28) yield

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d(\cos \theta_m)}{dt} &= (1-N) \omega_s \mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta \\ &= \frac{v_m}{r} (N-1) \sin \theta_m (\sin \theta_m - \rho \sin \theta_t \cos \Theta) \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Since $\theta_m, \theta_t \in [0, \pi]$ from their definitions in this paper, it is clear that:

$$\frac{d(\cos \theta_m)}{dt} \geq \frac{v_m}{r} (N-1) \sin \theta_m (\sin \theta_m - \rho \sin \theta_t) \quad (32)$$

Thus, $\dot{\theta}_m$ holds the following inequality:

$$\dot{\theta}_m \leq -\frac{v_m}{r} (N-1) (\sin \theta_m - \rho \sin \theta_t) \quad (33)$$

Then, the following conditions hold:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\theta}_m < 0, & \text{if } \sin \theta_m > \rho \\ \dot{\theta}_m \leq 0, & \text{if } \sin \theta_m = \rho \end{cases} \quad (34)$$

Note that $\theta_{m0} \in [0, \pi/2)$ from the assumption A7). This implies:

$$\sin \theta_m(t) < \sin \theta_{m0}, \quad \forall t \geq t_0, \quad \text{if } \sin \theta_{m0} > \rho \quad (35)$$

Since $\theta_m(t)$ is a continuous function of time unless the relative range becomes zero, Eqn. (34) also means that:

$$\sin \theta_m(t) \leq \rho, \quad \forall t \geq t_0, \quad \text{if } \sin \theta_{m0} \leq \rho \quad (36)$$

Therefore, it has:

$$\sin \theta_m(t) \leq \max \{ \sin \theta_{m0}, \rho \}, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (37)$$

Together with A7), (37) implies that $\theta_m(t) \in [0, \pi/2)$ for all $t \geq t_0$. Therefore, the condition in (37) is identical with the following condition:

$$\cos \theta_m(t) \geq \min \{ \cos \theta_{m0}, \sqrt{1-\rho^2} \}, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (38)$$

It is trivial that (37) and (38) lead to (25). Then, this lemma is proven. \square

Furthermore, according to (34), it is easy to find out that, no matter what value θ_{m0} is, $\theta_m(t)$ will always enter the range of $[0, \sin^{-1}\rho]$, as shown in the following discussion.

Notice that Lemma 1 in this paper is actually a simplified version of [Lemma 1, 24] with less variables.

Discursion 1: Suppose that the assumptions A1)–A7) hold and $N(t) > 1$. Then the 3D PPN guidance law guarantees that

$$\sin \theta_m(t) \leq \rho, \quad \forall t \geq t_c \quad (39)$$

where t_c is defined as

$$t_c = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \theta_m(0) \leq \sin^{-1} \rho \\ \{t > 0 | \sin \theta_m(t) = \rho\}, & \text{if } \theta_m(0) > \sin^{-1} \rho \end{cases} \quad (40)$$

Proof: Discursion 1 can be easily proven according to (34). \square

Remark 1: According to Lemma 1 and Discursion 1, θ_m in 3D PPN can be naturally divided into two ranges in the homing phase, i.e., $\theta_m \in (\sin^{-1}\rho, \pi/2)$ and $\theta_m \in [0, \sin^{-1}\rho]$.

B. Heading Error

Let us first examine properties of the heading error in 3D PPN. If there is no heading error, i.e. the missile is on the constant-bearing collision course, the transversal relative speed represented in Eqn. (24) is zero. As the missile speed v_m is not a control variable, the property of the heading error can be

examined by investigating the value of $|\rho \mathbf{t} - \mathbf{m}|$.

Theorem 1: In addition to A1)–A7), suppose the following two assumptions hold.

A8a) For a constant $\beta \in (0, 1+\rho]$, the initial states of the missile and target satisfy the following condition:

$$|\rho \mathbf{t}_0 - \mathbf{m}_0| < \beta \quad (41)$$

A9a) The navigation gain $N(t)$ is chosen such that:

$$N(t) > N_1(t) = 1 + \frac{\rho + \alpha r(t) / (\beta v_m^2)}{\cos \theta_m(t)}, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (42)$$

Then, 3D PPN commanded acceleration defined in Eqn. (12) guarantees that

$$|\rho \mathbf{t}(t) - \mathbf{m}(t)| < \beta, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (43)$$

Proof: As $v_\theta = v_m |\rho \mathbf{t} - \mathbf{m}|$ according to (24), a Lyapunov-like function $V(t)$ is defined as:

$$V(t) = \frac{v_\theta^2(t)}{2} = \frac{[r(t) \omega_s(t)]^2}{2} = \frac{v_m^2 [\rho \mathbf{t}(t) - \mathbf{m}(t)]^2}{2} \quad (44)$$

The first-order derivative of $V(t)$ with respect to time is obtained as:

$$\dot{V} = r \omega_s (\dot{r} \omega_s + r \dot{\omega}_s) \quad (45)$$

From Eqns. (11), (15), and (16), it is clear that:

$$r \dot{\omega}_s + 2 \dot{r} \omega_s = a_t \mathbf{n}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta - N v_m \omega_s \mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_r \quad (46)$$

Moreover, from Eqn. (23), $r \dot{\omega}_s$ can be written as:

$$r \dot{\omega}_s = v_m \omega_s (\rho \mathbf{t}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_r - \mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_r) \quad (47)$$

Therefore, it has

$$\dot{r} \omega_s + r \dot{\omega}_s = a_t \mathbf{n}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta - \rho v_m \omega_s \mathbf{t}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_r + (1-N) v_m \omega_s (\mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_r) \quad (48)$$

Substituting Eqn. (48) into Eqn. (45) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V} &= r \omega_s [a_t \mathbf{n}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta - \rho v_m \omega_s (\mathbf{t}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_r) + (1-N) v_m \omega_s (\mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_r)] \\ &= r v_m \omega_s^2 [(1-N)(\mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_r) - \rho (\mathbf{t}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_r)] + r \omega_s a_t \mathbf{n}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta \\ &\leq r v_m \omega_s^2 [(1-N) \cos \theta_m + \rho] + r \omega_s a_t \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

From the assumptions A6) and A9a), the following inequality holds,

$$\dot{V} < -\frac{\alpha r^2 \omega_s^2}{\beta v_m} + \alpha r \omega_s = -\frac{2\alpha V}{\beta v_m} + \sqrt{2\alpha} \sqrt{V} \quad (50)$$

After some algebraic calculations, it has:

$$\sqrt{V(t)} < \frac{\beta v_m}{\sqrt{2}} + \left(\sqrt{V_0} - \frac{\beta v_m}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \exp \left(-\frac{\alpha}{\beta v_m} t \right) \quad (51)$$

From Eqn. (24) and A8a), it is trivial that:

$$\sqrt{V_0} - \frac{\beta v_m}{\sqrt{2}} < 0 \quad (52)$$

Hence:

$$\sqrt{V(t)} < \frac{\beta v_m}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (53)$$

This proves Eqn. (43) for $t \geq t_0$. \square

Remark 2: Theorem 1 implies that, for a missile guided by 3D PPN against an arbitrarily maneuvering target with limited normal acceleration, the heading error can be bounded in a certain range, if the following conditions hold: the initial heading error is acceptable and the navigation gain is chosen

sufficiently large. Eqn. (42) implies that the bigger the speed ratio ρ is, the larger the navigation gain N is demanded. It can be also noted that the choice of $N(t)$ depends on the target acceleration bound α , not on the entire target acceleration profile. Even if Eqn. (41) is not satisfied, according to (51), it could be easily deduced that $V(t) < V_0$ and $\sqrt{V(t)}$ will converge to be smaller than $\beta v_m / \sqrt{2}$ asymptotically. Therefore, during the homing phase, the target will be limited in the missile seeker's FOV if the navigation gain of 3D PPN is properly chosen according to Eqn. (42).

Note that Ha *et al.* [21] firstly studied the upper-bound of heading error in 2D PPN by using the Lyapunov-like approach, and later Song and Ha [23] extended it to 3D space. However, the analysis in [21] was limited to 2D space studies and the analysis results in [23] were too conservative compared with the analysis results in Theorem 1. Besides, in both of [21] and [23], β was limited in the range of $(0, 1-\rho)$, which was quite stringent when ρ is close to 1.

C. LOS Rate and Commanded Acceleration

Next, let us examine the upper-bound on the magnitude of the commanded acceleration which is a major issue on PPN. Although one could suppose that the commanded acceleration of 3D PPN is diverging as the missile approaches an arbitrarily maneuvering target, the acceleration is actually upper-bounded if the navigation gain N is chosen sufficiently large (but still acceptable). Besides, if N is large enough, the LOS rate ω_s can be also limited in a certain range, which means the upper-bound of the heading error will be gradually decreasing during the engagement. This can be seen in Theorem 2 which will be introduced below.

Theorem 2: In addition to A1)–A7), suppose that the following assumption is satisfied.

A9b) The navigation gain $N(t)$ is chosen such that:

$$N(t) = N_2(t) + \frac{k}{\cos \theta_m(t)}, \quad N_2(t) = 2 + \frac{2\rho}{\cos \theta_m(t)} \quad (54)$$

where $k > 0$ is a constant. Then, during the guidance process the 3D LOS rate ω_s satisfies

$$\omega_s(t) \leq \delta = \max \left\{ \alpha / (v_m k), \omega_{s0} \right\}, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (55)$$

and the commanded acceleration of 3D PPN is bounded as:

$$|\mathbf{a}_{\text{PPN}}(t)| \leq N(t) v_m \delta, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (56)$$

Proof: The inequality of Eqn. (55) will be proved by contradiction. If Eqn. (55) does not hold, considering the continuity of $\omega_s(t)$, it is trivial that there exists a constant $t_1, t_2 \in [t_0, +\infty)$ such that:

$$\omega_s(t_1) = \delta \quad (57)$$

$$N(t) > N_3(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{for } \theta_m \in [0, \cos^{-1} \rho) \\ \max \left\{ 1, \frac{r \left(\frac{\alpha}{v_m^2} \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m} + r \omega_s^2 \right)}{\sin \theta_m \left(\sin \theta_m - \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m} \right)} \right\}, & \text{for } \theta_m \in \left[\cos^{-1} \rho, \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \end{cases} \quad (64)$$

$$\omega_s(t) > \delta, \quad \text{for } t_1 < t \leq t_2 \quad (58)$$

From Eqn. (46), $\dot{\omega}_s$ can be obtained as:

$$\dot{\omega}_s = \frac{-2\dot{r}\omega_s + \mathbf{a}_t \mathbf{n}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta - N v_m \omega_s \mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_r}{r} \quad (59)$$

Substituting Eqns. (23) and (54) into Eqn. (59) yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\omega}_s &= \frac{(2-N)v_m \omega_s \cos \theta_m - 2v_m \omega_s \rho \cos \theta_t + \mathbf{a}_t \mathbf{n}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta}{r} \\ &\leq \frac{(2-N)v_m \omega_s \cos \theta_m + 2v_m \omega_s \rho + \alpha}{r} \\ &\leq -\frac{v_m \omega_s [(N-2)\cos \theta_m - 2\rho] - \alpha}{r} \\ &= -\frac{\omega_s v_m k - \alpha}{r} \end{aligned} \quad (60)$$

Given the definition of δ in Eqn. (55) and the bound on ω_s assumed in (58) for $t \in (t_1, t_2]$, it is clear that:

$$\dot{\omega}_s < 0, \quad \text{for } t_1 < t \leq t_2 \quad (61)$$

which implies that:

$$\omega_s(t) < \delta, \quad \text{for } t_1 < t \leq t_2 \quad (62)$$

This contradicts Eqn. (58). Hence, Eqn. (55) must hold.

The magnitude of the commanded acceleration in Eqn. (13) is given by:

$$|\mathbf{a}_{\text{PPN}}| = |N v_m \omega_s \mathbf{e}_\omega \times \mathbf{t}_m| \leq |N v_m \omega_s| \quad (63)$$

Hence, the validness of (55) leads to the validness of (56). \square

Remark 3: Measurement errors in the LOS rate result in waste of acceleration energy and even some miss distance. Moreover, the larger the navigation gain is, the worse this becomes. In this aspect, it may not be beneficial to use too large navigation gain. Theorem 2 can give an indication to select the navigation gain in consideration of the overload. If the navigation gain is selected too small, i.e. k is chosen too small, Eqns. (55) and (56) in Theorem 2 indicates that the overload becomes large, probably beyond the physical limitation.

D. Capturability

During the engagement, especially at the homing phase, the initial closing speed is usually smaller than 0 and it is desirable to avoid the situation where \dot{r} becomes positive. Moreover, if 3D PPN maintains negative closing speed over the entire engagement, the interception of the target can be guaranteed. Therefore, the following Theorem 3 will investigate the characteristics of the closing speed \dot{r} in 3D PPN.

Theorem 3: In addition to A1)–A7), suppose the following assumption holds.

A9c) N is chosen as:

Then, 3D PPN of which the commanded acceleration is defined in Eqn. (13) guarantees:

$$\dot{r} < 0, \quad \forall t \geq t_c, \quad \text{given } \rho \in (0, 1/\sqrt{2}) \quad (65)$$

where t_c is defined as:

$$t_c = \begin{cases} t_0, & \text{if } \sin \theta_{m0} \leq \rho \\ \{t > t_0 \mid \sin \theta_m(t) = \rho\}, & \text{if } \sin \theta_{m0} > \rho \end{cases} \quad (66)$$

and

$$\dot{r} < 0, \quad \forall t \geq t_d \quad \text{given } \rho \in [1/\sqrt{2}, 1) \quad (67)$$

where t_d is defined as:

$$t_d = \begin{cases} t_c, & \text{if } \dot{r}(t_c) < 0 \\ \{t > t_c \mid \dot{r}(t) = 0\}, & \text{if } \dot{r}(t_c) \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (68)$$

Proof. Firstly, Eqn. (65) is proven. From Eqn. (64), $N > 1$. Thus, Lemma 1 holds. Therefore, from Lemma 1 and Eqn. (23), if $\sin \theta_{m0} \leq \rho$, the closing speed meets:

$$\dot{r} \leq v_m (\rho - \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}) < 0, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (\because \rho < 1/\sqrt{2}) \quad (69)$$

If $\sin \theta_{m0} > \rho$, as shown in Eqn. (34) in the proof of Lemma 1, $\dot{\theta}_m$ is negative until $\sin \theta_m(t)$ becomes equal to ρ . Then, there exists $t_c > 0$ such that:

$$\sin \theta_m(t_c) = \rho \quad (70)$$

Note that t_c is defined as the time instance when the condition Eqn. (70) is met. From Eqn. (34) in Lemma 1, it has:

$$\sin \theta_m(t) \leq \rho, \quad \forall t \geq t_c \quad (71)$$

Hence, it is obvious that:

$$\dot{r}(t) \leq v_m (\rho - \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}), \quad \forall t \geq t_c \quad (72)$$

Since $\rho < 1/\sqrt{2}$, for $\sin \theta_{m0} > \rho$, Eqn. (65) holds.

Secondly, Eqn. (67) is proven. From Lemma 1, it is clear that Eqn. (71) holds. This implies that

$$0 \leq \theta_m \leq \sin^{-1} \rho, \quad \forall t \geq t_c \quad (73)$$

We will consider the two regions of θ_m and prove the validness of Eqn. (67) for each region: in the first region $\theta_m \in [0, \cos^{-1} \rho)$, and in the second $\theta_m \in [\cos^{-1} \rho, \pi/2)$.

If $\theta_m \in [0, \cos^{-1} \rho)$, $\cos \theta_m$ is bounded as:

$$\cos \theta_m(t) > \rho, \quad \forall t \geq t_c \quad (74)$$

Then, $\dot{r}(t)$ given in Eqn. (23) is bounded as:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{r} &= v_m (\rho \cos \theta_t - \cos \theta_m) \\ &< v_m \rho (\cos \theta_t - 1) \leq 0, \end{aligned} \quad \forall t \geq t_d = t_c \quad (75)$$

Now, let us prove Eqn. (67) for $\theta_m \in [\cos^{-1} \rho, \pi/2)$. We will first prove Eqn. (67) for the case where $\dot{r}(t_c) < 0$ by contradiction.

If the inequality in Eqn. (67) is invalid, for continuous $\dot{r}(t)$ and $\dot{r}(t_c) < 0$, there exist $t_3, t_4 \in [t_c, +\infty)$ such that:

$$\dot{r}(t_3) = 0 \quad (76)$$

$$\dot{r}(t) > 0, \quad \text{for } t_3 < t \leq t_4 \quad (77)$$

From the first equation in Eqn. (11), it has:

$$\ddot{r} - r\omega_s^2 = a_{tr} - a_{mr} = \mathbf{a}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_r - \mathbf{a}_{\text{PPN}} \cdot \mathbf{e}_r \quad (78)$$

Substituting Eqns. (15) and (16) into Eqn. (78) yields:

$$\ddot{r} = a_t (\mathbf{n}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_r) + N v_m \omega_s (\mathbf{t}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_\theta) + r \omega_s^2 \quad (79)$$

From the geometric relationship, it is trivial that

$$\mathbf{n}_t \cdot \mathbf{e}_r \leq \sin \theta_t \quad (80)$$

Given Eqns. (30) and (80), \ddot{r} satisfies the following inequality:

$$\ddot{r} \leq \alpha \sin \theta_t + \frac{N v_m^2}{r} \sin \theta_m (\rho \sin \theta_t - \sin \theta_m) + r \omega_s^2 \quad (81)$$

Since $\dot{r}(t_3) = 0$, $\cos \theta_m(t_3)$ meets:

$$\cos \theta_m(t_3) = \rho \cos \theta_t \leq \rho \quad (82)$$

and thus:

$$\sin \theta_t(t_3) = \sqrt{1 - \frac{\cos^2 \theta_m(t_3)}{\rho^2}} \geq 0 \quad (83)$$

Therefore, it has:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta_m(t_3) - \rho \sin \theta_t(t_3) &= \sin \theta_m(t_3) - \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m(t_3)} \\ &= \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \theta_m(t_3)} - \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m(t_3)} \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (84)$$

For the case where $\theta_m \in [\cos^{-1} \rho, \pi/2)$, N is selected as:

$$N > \max \left\{ 1, \frac{\frac{r}{v_m^2} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\rho} \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m} + r \omega_s^2 \right)}{\sin \theta_m (\sin \theta_m - \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m})} \right\} \quad (85)$$

Hence, the inequality in Eqn. (81) at $t = t_3$ can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{r}(t_3) &< \alpha \sin \theta_t(t_3) - \left[\frac{\alpha}{\rho} \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m(t_3)} + r(t_3) \omega_s^2(t_3) \right] \\ &\quad + r(t_3) \omega_s^2(t_3) \end{aligned} \quad (86)$$

Given Eqns. (86) and (83), it is obvious that:

$$\ddot{r}(t_3) < 0 \quad (87)$$

Then, there must exist a time instance t_5 such that

$$\dot{r}(t_5) < 0, \quad t_3 < t_5 \leq t_4 \quad (88)$$

which contradicts Eqn. (77).

Now, let us prove Eqn. (67) for $\dot{r}(t_c) \geq 0$, given $\theta_m \in [\cos^{-1} \rho, \pi/2)$. From Eqn. (23), it is trivial that:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{r} \geq 0 &\Leftrightarrow \cos \theta_t \geq \frac{1}{\rho} \cos \theta_m \\ &\Leftrightarrow \cos^2 \theta_t \geq \frac{1}{\rho^2} \cos^2 \theta_m \\ &\quad (\because \cos \theta_m \text{ from Lemma 1}) \\ &\Leftrightarrow 1 - \cos^2 \theta_t \leq 1 - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \cos^2 \theta_m \end{aligned} \quad (89)$$

Hence, for $\dot{r} \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta_m - \rho \sin \theta_t &= \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \theta_m} - \rho \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \theta_t} \\ &\geq \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \theta_m} - \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m} > 0 \end{aligned} \quad (90)$$

If N holds the condition in Eqn. (85), from Eqns. (90) and (81), it has $\dot{r} \geq 0$, which is equal to

$$\ddot{r} \leq \alpha \sin \theta_t + \frac{N v_m^2}{r} \sin \theta_m (\rho \sin \theta_t - \sin \theta_m) + r \omega_s^2 < 0 \quad (91)$$

This implies that there exists $t_d > t_c$ such that $\dot{r}(t_d) < 0$. Then, it is clear that \dot{r} stays negative for all $t \geq t_d$. Then, Eqn. (67) is valid. This completes the proof. \square

Remark 4: According to Theorem 3, a properly chosen navigation gain of 3D PPN will guarantee the capture of the arbitrarily maneuvering target. The smaller the speed ratio ρ is, the smaller the region $\theta_m \in [\cos^{-1}\rho, \pi/2)$ becomes, where a time-varying N may be needed for guarantee the capturability of 3D PPN. Besides, according to Eqn. (64), a larger upper-bound of the target maneuvering acceleration leads to a larger requirement on N in this region, while the requirement on N reduces, as the relative range decreases.

E. Constant Navigation Gain Design

Above Lemma 1 and Theorem 1~3 provide a determination method of the navigation gain of 3D PPN, which needs the measurement data of real-time variables of $r(t)$, $\omega_s(t)$, and $\theta_m(t)$. For radar guided missiles with the inertial measurement unit (IMU), these variables can be measured or estimated during the engagement. Nevertheless, for some types of missiles, it could be desirable to initially determine a proper constant navigation gain which guarantees upper-bounds of heading error, LOS rate, and commanded acceleration and also makes sure negative closing speed during the engagement.

According to Eqns. (42) and (54) in Theorem 1 and 2 in respective, the value of $\theta_m(t)$ should not be too big, or the navigation gain must be very large to guarantee the boundednesses of heading error, LOS rate and commanded acceleration of 3D PPN. Therefore, for a homing missile, the initial engagement geometry should be designed to construct a small initial lead angle $\theta_m(t_0)$. According to Lemma 1, if $N > 1$ and $\theta_m(t_0) \leq \sin^{-1}\rho$, $\theta_m(t)$ will never be larger than $\sin^{-1}\rho$ again. Hence, for common missile, it would be reasonable to require that $\theta_m(t_0) \leq \sin^{-1}\rho$ in the homing phase. Besides, for common homing phase, the initial closing speed is often negative.

The following Theorem 4 gives a selection of constant N for 3D PPN to guarantee the boundednesses of heading error, LOS rate, commanded acceleration, and negative closing speed against the arbitrarily maneuvering target in the homing phase.

Theorem 4: For the case where $\dot{r}(t_0) < 0$ and $\sin \theta_m(t_0) \leq \rho$, suppose A1)–A8a) and the following assumptions hold. A9d) N is chosen such that:

$$N = 2 + \frac{2\rho + k}{\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}} \quad (92)$$

where

$$k > k_1 = \max \left\{ 0, \frac{\alpha r_0}{\beta v_m^2} - \left(\sqrt{1 - \rho^2} + \rho \right) \right\} \quad (93)$$

for $\rho \in (0, 1/\sqrt{2})$. For $\rho \in [1/\sqrt{2}, 1)$, k satisfies

$$k > \max \left\{ k_1, \left[\frac{\frac{\alpha r_0}{\beta v_m^2} \sqrt{2\rho^2 - 1} + \beta^2}{\rho(\rho - \sqrt{2\rho^2 - 1})} - 2 \right] \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} - 2\rho \right\} \quad (94)$$

Then, 3D PPN with the commanded acceleration defined in Eqn. (13) satisfies Eqns. (43), (55), (56), (65) and (67), which imply bounded heading error, bounded 3D LOS rate, bounded commanded acceleration, and negative closing speed, respectively.

Proof: Firstly, Eqns. (55) and (56) are proven to be valid. From the definition of t_c in Eqn. (66) and t_d in Eqn. (68), for $\dot{r}(t_0) < 0$ and $\sin \theta_m(t_0) \leq \rho$, it is clear that $t_c = t_d = t_0$.

When N is chosen by (92) and (93), it is clear that $N > 1$. According to Lemma 1,

$$\cos \theta_m(t) \geq \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (95)$$

Then,

$$N = 2 + \frac{2\rho + k}{\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}} \geq 2 + \frac{2\rho + k}{\cos \theta_m(t)}, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (96)$$

Thus, (55) and (56) are valid according to Theorem 2.

Secondly, Eqns. (43), (65) and (67) are proven to be valid. For $\rho \in (0, 1/\sqrt{2})$, according to (92) and (93), it is clear that $N > 1$, and hence (65) is valid according to Theorem 3. Besides, recalling (95), the validation of (93) is equal to

$$N = 2 + \frac{2\rho + k}{\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}} > 1 + \frac{\rho + \frac{\alpha r(t)}{\beta v_m^2}}{\cos \theta_m(t)} = N_1(t), \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (97)$$

Hence, according to Theorem 1, (43) is valid during the guidance process.

For $\rho \in [1/\sqrt{2}, 1)$, assume

$$r(t) \leq r_0, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (98)$$

According to (95) and (98), Eqn. (97) holds, and hence (43) is valid which implies that:

$$\frac{2V}{r} = \frac{v_\theta^2}{r} = r \omega_s^2 < \frac{v_m^2}{r} \beta, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (99)$$

Note that:

$$\sin \theta_m (\sin \theta_m - \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m}) = 1 - f(\cos \theta_m) \quad (100)$$

where

$$f(\cos \theta_m) = \cos^2 \theta_m + \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \theta_m} \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m} \quad (101)$$

From Eqn. (84), it is obvious that the Eqn. (100) is positive. According to (74) and (75), we only need to consider the case that $\theta_m \in [\cos^{-1}\rho, \pi/2)$. In this case, $\cos \theta_m$ is bounded as:

$$\sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \leq \cos \theta_m \leq \rho, \quad \text{for } \rho \in [1/\sqrt{2}, 1) \quad (102)$$

Therefore, it is trivial that $f(\cos \theta_m)$ is positive and its derivative with respect to $\cos \theta_m$ is negative. We also have:

$$\rho(\rho - \sqrt{2\rho^2 - 1}) = \min \left\{ \sin \theta_m (\sin \theta_m - \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m}) \right\} \quad (103)$$

and

$$\sqrt{1-\rho^2} = \arg \min_{\cos \theta_m} \left\{ \sin \theta_m \left(\sin \theta_m - \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m} \right) \right\} \quad (104)$$

Hence, for $\theta_m \geq \cos^{-1}\rho$, recalling (98) it has:

$$\frac{r}{v_m^2} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\rho} \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m} + r \omega_s^2 \right) \leq \frac{\alpha r_0}{\rho v_m^2} \sqrt{2\rho^2 - 1} + \beta^2 \quad (105)$$

$$\sin \theta_m \left(\sin \theta_m - \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m} \right) \leq \frac{\rho}{\rho - \sqrt{2\rho^2 - 1}}$$

Note that N holding Eqns. (92)~(94) in the assumption A9d) satisfies $N > 1$. As (94) leads to

$$N = 2 + \frac{2\rho + k}{\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} > \frac{\frac{\alpha r_0}{\rho v_m^2} \sqrt{2\rho^2 - 1} + \beta^2}{\rho(\rho - \sqrt{2\rho^2 - 1})} \quad (106)$$

Combing (105) with (106) leads to (64). Then, according to Theorem 4, it is obvious that (67) hold, which indicates our previous assumption (98) is valid. \square

Remark 5: According to Theorem 4, if the speed ratio ρ , the initial relative range r_0 , the upper-bound of the target maneuver acceleration α , and the missile speed v_m are previously known, a proper constant navigation gain of 3D PPN could be selected, which could guarantee the boundednesses of the heading error, LOS rate, commanded acceleration, and the negative closing speed. Furthermore, if the accurate values of ρ , r_0 , α , and v_m could not be obtained, according to the proof process of Theorem 4, values of ρ , r_0 , and α could be enlarged a little bit for the selection of N , while a smaller value of v_m could be adopted.

IV. NUMERICAL SIMULATIONS

In this section, the performance of 3D PPN is demonstrated through numerical simulation. The simulation examples consider the homing guidance phase. The initial conditions are represented in Tab. I.

TABLE I
Simulation Conditions

	Parameter	Value
Initial missile position	r_{m0}	(0,1,0) km
Initial relative distance	r_0	2 km
Initial heading error	HE_0	7.8854 deg
Missile speed	v_m	450 m/s
Target speed	v_t	350 m/s
Initial LOS elevation angle	q_{e0}	30 deg
Initial LOS azimuth angle	$q_{\beta 0}$	-45 deg
Initial missile pitch angle	ϕ_m	45 deg
Initial missile yaw angle	ψ_m	-45 deg
Initial target pitch angle	ϕ_t	0 deg
Initial target yaw angle	ψ_t	135 deg

The sampling rate is 100 Hz. Although the theorems proposed in this paper are valid for any type of maneuvering target whose acceleration meets Eqns. (16) and (17), however, for the length of the paper, we just consider two cases of the arbitrarily maneuvering target where the profiles of target accelerations are dissimilar. The acceleration profile in the first case is given by:

$$\mathbf{a}_t = \begin{cases} 2g(\mathbf{i}_t \times \mathbf{v}_t)/|\mathbf{i}_t \times \mathbf{v}_t|, & \text{for } t \in [0, 1.5]s \\ 2.5g(\mathbf{j}_t \times \mathbf{v}_t)/|\mathbf{j}_t \times \mathbf{v}_t|, & \text{for } t > 1.5s \end{cases} \quad (107)$$

where \mathbf{i}_t and \mathbf{j}_t denote the unit vectors corresponding to x and y axes in the inertial coordinate system, and g gravity, i.e., $g \approx 9.81$ m/s². The second case assumes the following target acceleration profile:

$$\mathbf{a}_t = \begin{cases} 2g \sin(2\pi ft)(\mathbf{i}_t \times \mathbf{v}_t)/|\mathbf{i}_t \times \mathbf{v}_t|, & \text{for } t \in [0, 1.5]s \\ 2.5g \cos(2\pi ft)(\mathbf{j}_t \times \mathbf{v}_t)/|\mathbf{j}_t \times \mathbf{v}_t|, & \text{for } t > 1.5s \end{cases} \quad (108)$$

where $f = 1.5$ Hz. From the acceleration profile, it has $\alpha = 2.5g$. It can be seen that the target maneuvering accelerations considered here are quite complicated for the guidance law to adapt to.

According to Tab. 1, the initial heading error, $\beta_0 (= r_0 \omega_{s0}/v_m)$, is approximately equal to 0.1301 and $\rho = 0.778 > 1/\sqrt{2}$. Note that, according to Section III, $\rho \in [1/\sqrt{2}, 1)$ is a more stringent region compared with $\rho \in (0, 1/\sqrt{2})$ for the capturability of 3D PPN. If we set up $\beta = 0.2$, Eqn. (92) indicates $N > 4.4749$ is large enough to guarantee the capture of the target and the boundednesses of heading error, LOS rate, and commanded acceleration. Thus, for a constant navigation gain, we may choose $N = 4.5$.

In this section, it is assumed that r , \dot{r} , ρ , ω_s , and θ_m could be accurately measured. Therefore, we could choose the real-time navigation gain $N(t)$ according to Theorem 1~3.

A. Capturability Demonstration

Firstly, the capturability analysis result of 3D PPN proposed in this paper will be demonstrated and compared with previous results given in [21] and [23]. The analysis methods in [21] and [23] ensure $\dot{r} < 0$ in the whole guidance process, while in this paper we ensure $\dot{r} < 0$ after θ_m enters $[0, \sin^{-1}\rho]$. Note that, according to Discursion 1, θ_m will enter $[0, \sin^{-1}\rho]$ definitely with $N > 1$ for 3D PPN. Then, the capture of the target could be guaranteed.

According to Theorem 3, in this case the navigation gain to guarantee $\dot{r} < 0$ should be selected as

$$N = \max \left\{ 1, \frac{\frac{r}{v_m^2} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\rho} \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m} + r \omega_s^2 \right)}{\sin \theta_m \left(\sin \theta_m - \sqrt{\rho^2 - \cos^2 \theta_m} \right)} \right\} + 0.1 \quad (109)$$

while according to [Theorem 1, 21] and [Theorem 1, 23], the navigation gain of PPN should be

$$N > 1 + \frac{\rho + \frac{\alpha r_0}{\beta v_m^2}}{\sqrt{1 - |\rho + \beta|^2}} = \begin{cases} 10.4870, & \beta = 0.2 \\ 7.2962, & \beta = 0.1301 \end{cases}$$

and

$$N > 1 + \frac{\rho + \frac{2\sqrt{2}\alpha r_0}{\beta v_m^2}}{\sqrt{1 - |\rho + \beta|^2}} = \begin{cases} 21.0498, & \beta = 0.2 \\ 15.4162, & \beta = 0.1301 \end{cases}$$

respectively. It can be seen that the analysis result of [Theorem 1, 21] is more conservative than that in [Theorem 1, 23].

The simulation results are shown in Figs. 3~5. During the guidance process, the result of (109) is always $N = 1.1$. This is quite smaller than the navigation gain requirements in [21] and [23] to guarantee the capture of an arbitrarily maneuvering target.

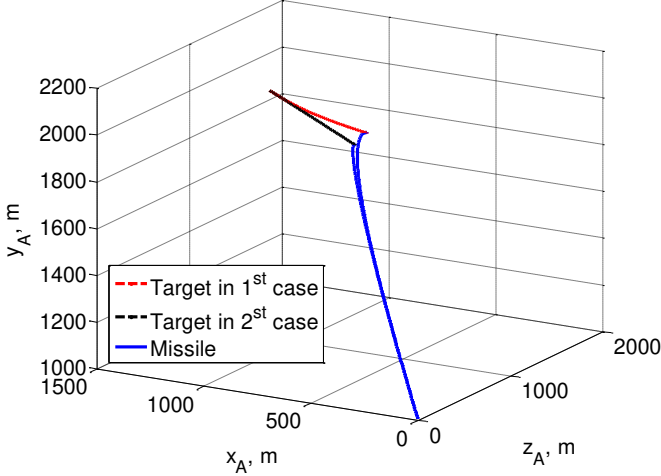


Fig. 3. 3D trajectories of the missile and target (A).

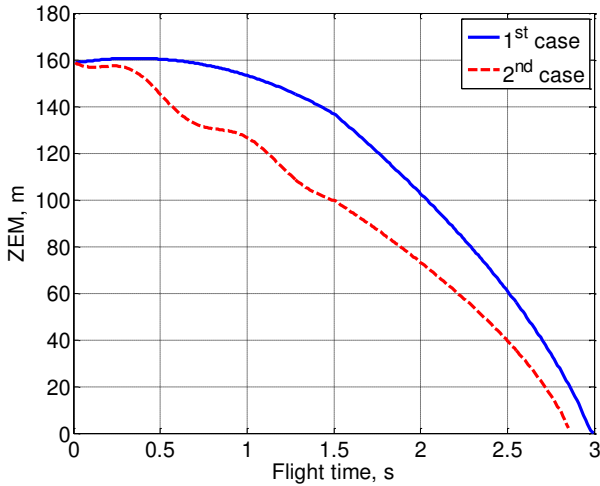


Fig. 4. Zero-effort-miss in two cases (A).

The 3D trajectories and time histories of zero-effort-miss (ZEM) in the two cases are depicted in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. As shown in these figures, the missile guided by 3D PPN with $N = 1.1$ successfully intercepts the arbitrarily maneuvering target with bounded acceleration. Fig. 3 illustrates that the two target maneuvers are quite different from each other. Fig. 4 shows that ZEMs are well controlled and converged to zero. The final miss distances in the two cases are smaller than 0.01m.

The time histories of θ_m and the closing speed v_r are illustrated in Fig. 5. According to Lemma 1, for the two cases, as long as $N > 1$, $\theta_m(t)$ must be not larger than $\max\{22.8854^\circ, 51.0576^\circ\}$, which is valid from the top subfigure of Fig. 5. The closing speed $v_r = \dot{r}$ is generally increasing and is always smaller than 0 during the guidance process, which validates the capturability analysis result of this paper, i.e., Theorem 3.

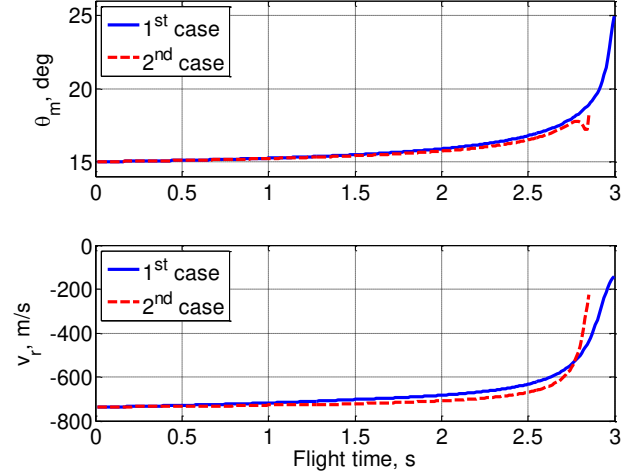


Fig. 5. Time histories of $\cos \theta_m$ and the closing speed (A).

B. Upper-Bounds of Heading Error, LOS Rate, and Commanded Acceleration

Although the above subsection shows that the arbitrarily maneuvering target could be intercepted by 3D PPN with N selected by Eqn. (109), the heading error and commanded acceleration might be extremely large and unacceptable for the realistic seeker and control system of missile. Hence, the navigation gain N should be re-selected by considering the acceptable ranges of heading error, 3D LOS rate, and commanded acceleration, according to Theorem 1 and 2.

In the following content, Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 will be demonstrated.

Firstly, according to Theorem 2, for the limitation of commanded acceleration, the navigation gain is selected as:

$$N(t) = 2 + \frac{2\rho + k}{\cos \theta_m(t)} \quad (110)$$

In this way, (55) and (56) will be valid during the guidance process. Secondly, for the limitation of heading error, (42) needs to be satisfied, hence it has

$$k > \frac{\alpha r(t)}{\beta v_m^2} - \cos \theta_m(t) - \rho, \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \quad (111)$$

Since $\dot{r}(t) < 0$ and $\cos \theta_m(t) \geq \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}$ are valid according to Theorem 3 and Lemma 1, respectively, it has

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\alpha r(t)}{\beta v_m^2} - \cos \theta_m(t) - \rho &\leq \frac{\alpha r_0}{\beta v_m^2} - \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} - \rho \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \\ &= -0.1952, \end{aligned}$$

Hence, a positive k could guarantee the limitation of heading error. Another very important issue is the upper-bound of commanded acceleration. According to Theorem 2, for a positive k , the 3D LOS rate $\omega_s(t)$ will smaller than $\alpha/v_m k$ and the commanded acceleration $a_{PPN}(t)$ will satisfy

$$|a_{PPN}(t)| \leq \frac{N(t)\alpha}{k} \leq \left[2 + \frac{2\rho + k}{\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}} \right] \frac{\alpha}{k} \quad (112)$$

If the upper-bound of the missile maneuverability is assumed as

$a_{\max}=20g$, then according to Eqn. (112), $k=0.6982$ should be selected. Hence, $k=0.7$ is selected in this subsection.

The simulation results in this case are in Figs. 6~8.

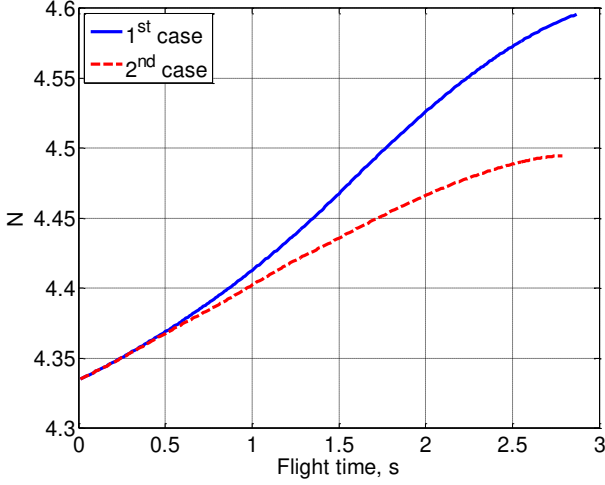


Fig. 6. Navigation gain profiles (B).

Fig. 6 shows the profiles of the navigation gain. In both cases, the navigation gain N is smoothly increasing and is always below 4.6. Since N is much larger than 1.1 here, according to the above subsection, the target can be captured. Hence, the 3D trajectories and the ZEM curves will not be shown in this subsection. The curves of θ_m and v_r will also not be shown, as Lemma 1 and Theorem 3 have been demonstrated in the above subsection.

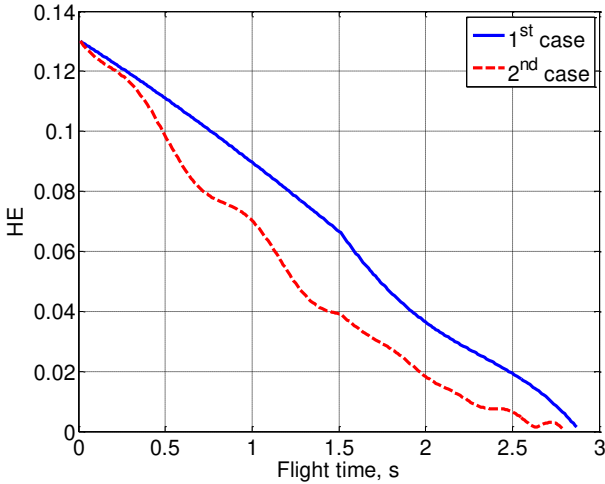


Fig. 7. Heading error profiles (B).

The heading error profiles in both cases are depicted in Fig. 7. It is clearly shown that the heading error is generally decreasing and converging to zero towards the end of the homing phase. Fig. 7 also shows that the heading error is always smaller than $\beta=0.2$ during the engagement in both cases, which complies with Theorem 1.

The time histories of the total commanded acceleration and the angular speed of the LOS vector are shown in Fig. 8. From Eqn. (55) in Theorem 2, the upper-bound of the 3D LOS rate ω_s would be $\delta=a/(v_m k)=4.4609 \text{ deg/s}$, which is strictly valid

according to the bottom subfigure of Fig. 8. On the other hand, according to Eqn. (56), the upper-bound of the commanded acceleration would be $|a_{\text{PPN}}| \leq \max\{N(t)\} v_m \delta < 4.6 v_m \delta = 16.4286g$, which is also strictly valid according to the top subfigure of Fig. 8. Besides, from the above analysis, $|a_{\text{PPN}}| \leq a_{\max}=20g$, which is in accordance with (112). Hence, $k=0.7$ is an appropriate choice for the navigation gain of 3D PPN against the arbitrarily maneuvering target, when $a_{\max}=20g$ under the initial conditions of Tab. 1.

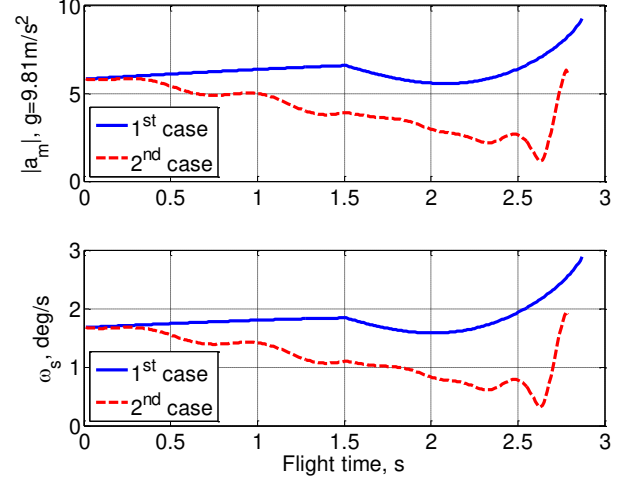


Fig. 8. Time histories of the total commanded acceleration and angular speed of the LOS vector (B).

V. CONCLUSIONS

This paper analyzed the performance of 3D PPN against an arbitrarily maneuvering target with limited lateral acceleration using a Lyapunov-like method. Unlike previous studies, the analysis in this paper is based on the engagement dynamics established in a rotating coordinated system of LOS to simplify the analysis procedure. From the analysis, it is proven that, if the initial heading error is bounded within a certain range, the 3D PPN guidance law with an acceptable navigation gain guarantees boundedness of the heading error, LOS rate, and commanded acceleration during the pursuit. The analysis results also provide the requirement on the navigation gain to hold the negative closing speed over the engagement. These results were demonstrated using numerical simulations and it is shown that all the simulation results comply with the proposed theories. Compared to previous studies on the performance analysis of 3D PPN, this paper not only significantly simplifies the analysis procedure, but also provides the least conservative results.

One should note that the analysis assumes that the seeker and autopilot have the ideal dynamic characteristics and there is no measurement error. In practice, we should consider the dynamics of the seeker and autopilot, as well as properties of the measurement noise. Nevertheless, the results of the performance analysis in this paper provides a helpful understanding of the characteristics of 3D PPN and the analysis framework can be extended to other PPN-like guidance laws.

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Fig. 1. Three-dimensional engagement geometry.

Fig. 2. Two types of relationships between the directions of missile (target) velocity and LOS.

Fig. 3. 3D trajectories of the missile and target (A).

Fig. 4. Zero-effort-miss in two cases (A).

Fig. 5. Time histories of $\cos\theta_m$ and the closing speed (A).

Fig. 6. Navigation gain profiles (B).

Fig. 7. Heading error profiles (B).

Fig. 8. Time histories of the total commanded acceleration and angular speed of the LOS vector (B).

Performance of 3D PPN against arbitrarily maneuvering target for homing phase

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