



## An Optimized PID for Capsubots using Modified Chaotic Genetic Algorithm

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## A B S T R A C T

This paper proposes a design for a mesoscale capsule robot which can be used in gaining diagnostic data and delivering medical treatment in inaccessible parts of the human body. After modeling the capsule robot system and determining its transfer function, an approach is presented for the capsule robot to control it: A PID-controlled closed-loop approach. A modified chaotic genetic algorithm is proposed in order to optimize the coefficients of the PID controller. Then, simulations are conducted to demonstrate the results for the proposed approach. Finally, the results are compared with those of similar works in the literature.

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## NOMENCLATURE

$M$ (Kg)	The weight of the capsule body	$u$ (N)	Applied force by the piezoelectric device
$m$ (Kg)	The weight of the inner mass	$a$ (m)	Half-length of the capsule length
$x_1(t)$ (m)	The position of the capsule body	$G(S)$	Open-loop transfer function of the capsobot
$x_2(t)$ (m)	The position of the inner mass	$K(S)$	Transfer function of the PID controller
$t_1, \dots, t_4$ (s)	Duration of steps 1 through 4	$T(S)$	Closed-loop transfer function of the capsobot
$\mu_{1k}$	kinetic friction coefficient between the capsule shell and the outside environment	$H(S)$	Transfer function of the transducer block
$\mu_{2k}$	kinetic friction coefficient between the capsule shell and the inner mass	$MO$	The maximum overshoot of the impulse response of the closed-loop transfer function of the capsobot
$g$ ( $m/s^2$ )	Acceleration to the gravity	$T_s$	The settling time of the impulse response of the closed-loop transfer function of the capsobot

## 1. INTRODUCTION

A capsobot (capsule robot) is a mesoscale robot which has recently attracted extensive attention in the medical research community. Studies have shown that capsobots are of potential application in medical diagnosis and treatment [1-3]. A capsobot is an autonomous robot which can explore inaccessible parts of the body; For instance, in gastrointestinal endoscopy, and especially

for the small intestine which is challenging to be accessed by means of conventional methods. There are mainly two types of capsobots: legged capsobots, and legless capsobots. In the former, the capsule has an external mechanism to drive the capsule [4, 5]. The drawbacks of this method are its complexity, the high cost of the structure, and the likelihood of causing damage and pain to patients as a result of the legs of the capsobot moving along the stomach and the intestine [6]. The legless capsobot, on the other hand, has a simple driving mechanism based on internal propulsion

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(between the capsule shell and the inner mass), and friction [7, 8].

Most of the literature on capsulobots is focused on the design of the capsulobot structure, while the optimization and control of capsulobots is neglected. The analysis and the tracking issue of capsulobots studied in [9]. A predictive controller model for capsulobot's time delay was presented in [10], and the motion generation strategy for capsulobots has been described in [7]. Also, the wireless control of an endoscopic capsule robot has been studied in [11, 12].

Evolutionary algorithms such as Genetic Algorithm (GA) and Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) have been widely used in the literature in many different applications [13-15]. In this work, GA is used to optimize the behavior of the capsulobot. GA is inspired from natural reproduction and evolution, and is one of the most powerful methods in metaheuristic optimization. Similar to many of the metaheuristic methods in the literature, the basic GA may result in a local minimum. Hence, the algorithm stops before converging to the global minimum point. A modified chaotic GA is presented in this paper in order to overcome this problem and also increase the convergence speed [16] and enhance the performance of the algorithm for our application.

The present paper also investigates the tuning of the coefficients of the PID controller. The rest of the paper is organized as follows: In section 2, the dynamics of the capsulobot is presented. The proposed modified chaotic genetic algorithm and the associated cost function of the proposed dynamic model are described in Section 3. Next, the analysis and the optimization of the capsulobot followed by computer simulations and results are presented in Section 4. Finally, conclusions are given in Section 5.

## 2. The CAPSUBOT DYNAMIC MODEL

The capsulobot consists of two main parts: capsule shell  $M$  and the inner mass (moving part)  $m$ , where  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are positions of  $M$  and  $m$  respectively. A schematic diagram of a capsulobot is depicted in Figure 1.

**2. 1. Motion Generation Strategy** The motion generation of a capsulobot is based on the propulsion force between the capsule shell and the inner mass. The inner mass must shake in a certain manner so that the capsule shell moves in the desired trajectory. In the case of a one dimensional movement, the inner mass should shake in fast and slow stages. For the purpose of this work, we propose a four-step motion [17]:

Step 1:  $0 < t < t_1$ , the acceleration vector of the inner mass is to the left with a high amplitude, and the acceleration vector of the capsule is to the right (Figure 2).

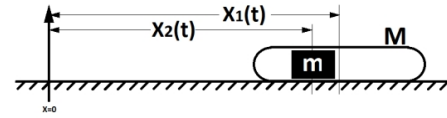


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of a Capsulobot

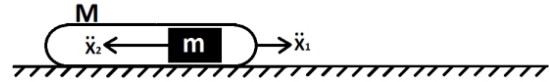


Figure 2. Motion step 1



Figure 3: Motion step 2

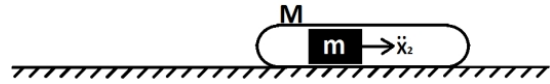


Figure 4. Motion step 3

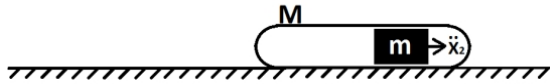


Figure 5. Motion step 4

Step 2:  $t_1 < t < t_2$ , the acceleration vector of the inner mass is to the left with low amplitude, and the acceleration vector of the capsule is also to the left (Figure 3).

Step3:  $t_2 < t < t_3$ , the acceleration vector of the inner mass is to the right with a low amplitude, and the capsule remains stationary (Figure 4).

Step 4:  $t_3 < t < t_4$ , the acceleration vector of the inner mass is to the right with a very low amplitude, and the capsule remains stationary (Figure 5).

In the above steps,  $t_2$  is predefined arbitrarily by the designer.  $t_3$  and  $t_4$  are calculated as below:

$$t_1 = t_2/2, t_3 = 2t_2. \quad (1)$$

$$t_4 = 2t_2 + (2t_2^2 + 8a/\beta)^{1/2}. \quad (2)$$

Note that the effect of step 1 is implicitly incorporated in step 2 [17]. In Equation (2),  $a$  is the half-length of the capsule shell, and  $\beta$  is defined as below:

$$\beta = \mu(M+m)g/m. \quad (3)$$

**2. 2. Capsulobot Transfer Function** Using Newton's second law for the external capsule and the inner mass, we obtain [9, 18]:

$$M \ddot{x}_1 + \mu_{1k}(M+m) \times \text{sgn}(\dot{x}_1) - \mu_{2k}mg \times \text{sgn}(\dot{x}_2 - \dot{x}_1) = u. \quad (4)$$

$$m \ddot{x}_2 + \mu_{2k}mg \times \text{sgn}(\dot{x}_2 - \dot{x}_1) = -u. \quad (5)$$

where  $M$  and  $m$  are the mass of the capsule shell, and the inner mass, respectively;  $u$  is the propulsion force between the shell and the inner mass generated by a piezoelectric element;  $g$  the acceleration due to gravity;  $\mu_{1k}$  the kinetic friction coefficient between the capsule shell and the outside environment, and  $\mu_{2k}$  the kinetic friction coefficient between the capsule shell and the inner mass. Rewriting Equation (5) will result in:

$$\mu_{2k}m g \times \text{sgn}(\dot{x}_2 - \dot{x}_1) = -u - m \ddot{x}_2 \tag{6}$$

Substituting Equation (6) in Equation (4):

$$M \ddot{x}_1 + \mu_{1k} (M + m) g \times \text{sgn}(\dot{x}_1) - (-u - m \ddot{x}_2) = u. \tag{7}$$

$$\rightarrow M \ddot{x}_1 + \mu_{1k} (M + m) g \times \text{sgn}(\dot{x}_1) + m \ddot{x}_2 = 0 \tag{8}$$

For the ease of calculation and considering that for small values of  $\dot{x}_1$ :

$$\text{sgn}(\dot{x}_1) \approx \dot{x}_1 \tag{9}$$

Then, Equation (8) will be simplified to:

$$M \dot{x}_1 + \mu_{1k} (M + m) g \times \dot{x}_1 + m \ddot{x}_2 \approx 0. \tag{10}$$

Assuming that  $\mu_{2k}$  is small, Equation (5) could be rewritten as below:

$$m \ddot{x}_2(t) = -u(t). \tag{11}$$

Applying Laplace transformation to Equations (10) and (11):

$$MS^2 X_1(S) + \mu_{1k} (M + m) g S X_1(S) + m S^2 X_2(S) = 0. \tag{12}$$

$$U(S) = -m S^2 X_2(S) \tag{13}$$

Substituting  $X_2(s)$  from Equation (13) in Equation (12), the capsbot transfer function can be written as:

$$G(S) \triangleq \frac{x_1(s)}{U(S)} = \frac{1}{MS^2 + \mu_{1k}g(M+m)s}. \tag{14}$$

The block diagram of an open-loop capsbot system is shown in Figure 6.

Consider a PID controller with  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$  as proportional, integrative, and derivative coefficients, respectively. A PID controller transfer function can be written as:

$$K(S) = K_P + K_I/S + K_D S [1/(T_F S + 1)]. \tag{15}$$

In practical applications, since an increment in the derivative factor of controller might lead to system instability, we use a filter in the derivative part of the controller with a sampling time of  $T_F$ . The block diagram of a closed-loop PID controlled capsbot is shown in Figure 7.

According to Equations (14) and (15), the closed-loop PID controlled transfer function of the capsbot can be written as:

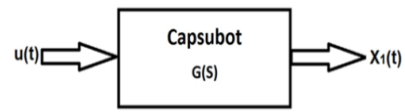


Figure 6. An open-loop capsbot system

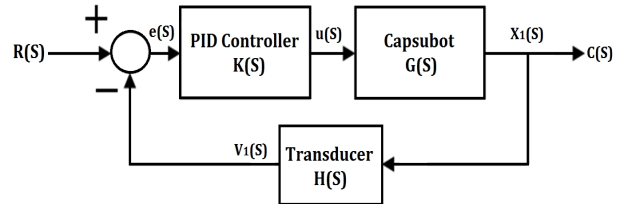


Figure 7. A closed-loop PID controlled capsbot block diagram

$$T(S) = C(S) / R(S) = K(S) \cdot G(S) / [1 + K(S) \cdot G(S)]. \tag{16}$$

In the control system above,  $R(t)$  and  $C(t)$  are the input and output of the whole system, respectively.  $C(t)$  represents the capsbot's trajectory, and  $R(t)$  represents the desired velocity which must be tracked by the capsbot and is defined by the user. The transducer block ( $H(S)$ ) transforms the position of capsbot into its velocity. A simple derivative block can perform this task. The closed loop control system feeds back the velocity of capsbot ( $V_1(t)$ ) and compares it to the desired velocity signal. Then, the error signal ( $e(t)$ ) is applied to the well-tuned PID controller, so that the PID controller determines the force signal needed to be applied to the piezoelectric element in order to minimize the error between the velocity of the capsbot and the desired velocity.

### 3. MODIFIED CHAOTIC GENETIC ALGORITHM

The transfer function of the capsbot has poles near the origin. Therefore, the basic GA might be stuck in a relative minimum and/or output an infinite answer for the problem, and it will be terminated before reaching an optimal solution. A regular random disturbance might help the algorithm escape from these local minima and find the global minimum. Also, in order to prevent the algorithm from producing infinite solution values, in all parts of the modified GA, a selective mechanism governs. Thus, after each iteration of the algorithm, only those solutions that make a better cost value are accepted. The solutions that have a worse cost value are neglected. Therefore, the modified chaotic GA does not produce infinite solution values and has a higher chance of finding the global optimum.

Chaos is a phenomenon that might happen in most non-linear systems. The randomness in chaotic systems

risers from the extreme complexity of such systems and huge number of variables which makes it so sensitive that even a very small change in its parameter values or initial states can cause a huge change in system's output. Chaos is used in order to have the modified genetic algorithm suppress local minimum points.

Consider the closed-loop PID controlled system introduced in section 2. In order to improve the behavior of the capsbot the settling time of the impulse response ( $T_s$ ) and the Maximum Overshoot of the impulse response ( $MO$ ) are minimized during the optimization.  $Z$  is defined as the Cost function which expresses the impressions of these properties by allotting weight coefficients to them ( $W_1$  and  $W_2$ ):

$$Z = W_1 * MO + W_2 * T_s. \quad (17)$$

The algorithm makes an effort to find the global minimum point of the function,  $Z = f(K_p, K_i, K_d)$ . According to the transfer function of the capsbot,  $f(K_p, K_i, K_d)$  might be a complex 3D graph with many relative minima and one global optimum. In practice, it is observed that not only chaos helps the algorithm to escape from relative minima, but it also increases the convergence speed to the absolute minimum. Consider a chaotic variable  $X_n$  and the following chaotic sequence:

$$X_{n+1} = C * X_n (1 - X_n), 0 < X_0 < X_{nMax} = 1. \quad (18)$$

where,  $C$  is a coefficient usually set at about 0.4. The sequence above makes  $X_n$  chaotic. In other words, while  $n$  increases, the chaotic sequence has the ability to generate a series of values between 0 and  $X_{nMax}=1$ , with better statistical properties than usual random value generation methods. Since the chaotic sequence is sensitive to the initial value of  $X_0$ , different values of  $X_0$  generate different values of  $X_n$ . Hence, for a specific value of  $n$ ,  $X_n$  is different for different amounts of  $X_0$ , i.e.,  $X_n$  is chaotic. Note that, according to practical results,  $C$  must decrease with the increase in number of the iterations of the chaotic genetic algorithm, in order to gain better results.

A flowchart of the proposed modified chaotic GA is presented in Figure 8. All parts of the flowchart are described as follows.

**3. 1. Initializing** In the initializing step of the algorithm, the parameters used in algorithm such as the number and range of the variables, number of iterations, population size, crossover percentage and mutation percentage are defined. Also, parameters related to the capsbot such as weight of the inner mass and the capsule body, length of the capsule, and the kinetic friction coefficient are determined in this step. After specifying the required parameters, the first generation of chromosomes are produced. In the modified GA presented in this paper, only finite and legitimately appropriate solutions are accepted. After the initializing step, the main loop of the algorithm begins.

**TABLE 1.** An example of crossover

	parents	Children
Reproducing without crossover	10011101	10011101
	00101100	00101100
Reproducing with crossover	100 <u>1</u> 1101	10 <u>1</u> Q1101
	00 <u>1</u> 01100	00Q <u>1</u> 1100

**3. 2. Crossover** After randomly producing the first generation in the initializing step, each pair of parents produces one pair of children. The crossover percentage determines the probability that the children are not identical to their parents (i.e., the opposite of the probability that parents reproduce themselves as children in the next generation). An example of producing children with crossover and producing children without crossover is given in Table 1.

**3. 3. Mutation** Mutation is performed to produce off springs with mutated genes. One of the genes in the chromosome of the parent is selected randomly and a new random value within the range of the problem space is assigned to this gene. Mutation helps the algorithm to find new chromosomes which may not be produced by crossover. The number of chromosomes in which mutation happens depends on the mutation percentage. Compared to the results of crossover, the results of mutation are uncommon. Therefore, a big mutation percentage might lead to data corruption. In this work the mutation percentage is 10%.

**3. 4. Chaos** In this part of the modified chaotic GA, the last set of new chromosomes is produced by chaos. In order to produce off springs using chaos, the genes in a chromosome are selected. Each one of these genes is assigned as initial value in a logistic function. Therefore, for each gene a chain of chaotic values is produced, which are used as genes for new chromosomes. Using chaos, any number of chromosomes can be produced in each iteration. In this work, 50% of the chromosomes are produced by chaos.

**3. 5. Population Merge and Sort** After producing new sets of chromosomes by means of crossover, mutation and chaos, all the data are merged together and the best answers are selected to produce the next generation. The process of merging data can be done in two ways: The first approach is that all the data produced from crossover, mutation and chaos are collected, and the best answers are selected. The second way is to set a predetermined share in the next generation for each of the sets of chromosome produced by each function depending on the importance of that data set. In the case of this paper, since the data

produced by each function are not distinctively different, therefore, the first method is used.

**3. 6. Evaluation** The final step in the algorithm is evaluation. In the evaluation step, the stopping criteria for the algorithm are checked. The stopping criteria can be defined as the elapsed time, number of iterations, reaching an expected cost value, etc. In this work we use the number of iteration as stopping criterion. If the stopping criteria are not satisfied, the algorithm will start the next iteration. Otherwise, it will stop and the best chromosome among the chromosomes of the last generation will be chosen as the final answer for the algorithm.

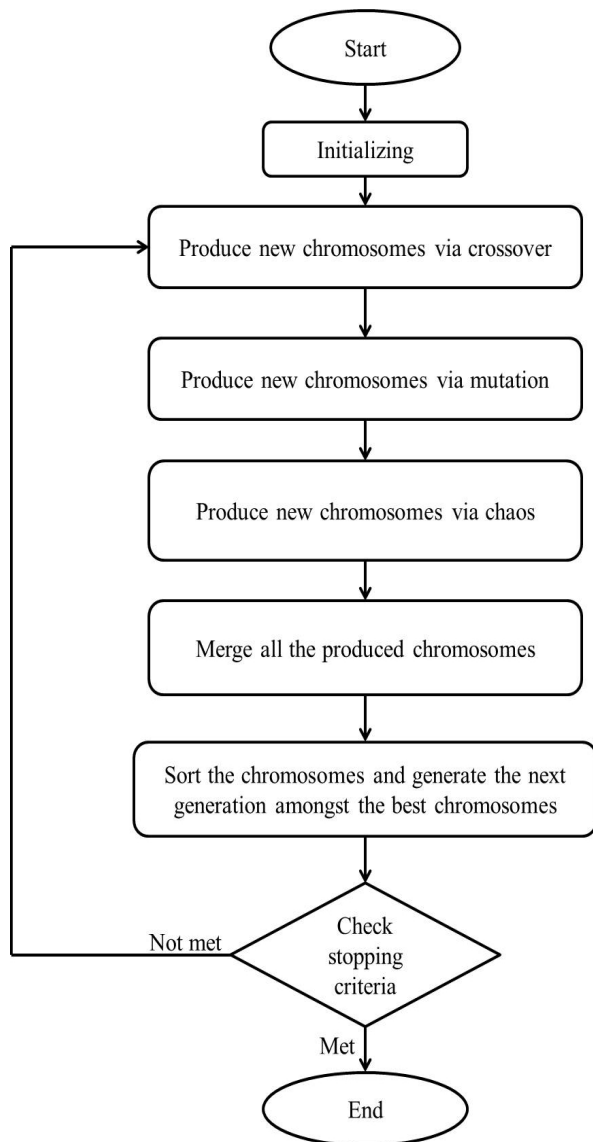


Figure 8. The modified chaotic genetic algorithm

TABLE 2. Simulation Parameters used for the capsbot

$M$ [Kg]	$m$ [Kg]	$m_{hk}$	$g$ [ $m/s^2$ ]	$a$ [m]	$t_2$ [s]
0.003	0.004	0.1	9.81	0.025	0.005

TABLE 3. PID Parameters

$K_P$	$K_I$	$K_D$	$T_F$
41.61	99.97	0.12	0.86

TABLE 4. Parameters of capsbot used in [17] and [18]

$M$ [Kg]	$m$ [Kg]	$m_{hk}$	$g$ [ $m/s^2$ ]	$a$ [m]	$t_2$ [s]
0.003	0.004	0.3	9.81	0.005	0.024

TABLE 5. Comparing results with [17] and [18]

Case	Cycle Time (sec)	Distance (cm)	Speed (cm/sec)
This work	0.37	3.5	9.46
[14]	0.18	1.1	6.11
[16]	0.18	1.4	7.78

4. SIMULATION RESULTS

MATLAB® Simulink R2008b was used to simulate the PID closed loop controller, and the simulation was performed on a CORE i5 Intel, 2.3 GHz, with 4 GB of RAM. Next the results of this work were compared with those of others in the literature.

**4. 1. Optimization** Table 2 shows the parameters used in the simulation, which are close to those that can be used in practical applications according to the properties of intestine and stomach referred to in the literature [19]. The coefficients obtained for the PID controller after simulating the chaotic genetic algorithm represented in this paper are shown in Table 3.

According to the proposed motion strategy, the desired velocity of the capsbot is shown in Figure 9. The capsule moves in steps 1 and 2, and remains stationary at steps 3 and 4. As shown in Figure 10, the velocity of the capsbot obtained from the simulation tracks the desired velocity. Note that because of the different parameters for the capsbot and the desired velocity, which is defined by the user due to the application, different results will be achieved for the capsbot velocity. Figure 11 shows the required force that the piezoelectric element should generate. So, the capsbot will move in the desired trajectory. And finally, the trajectory of the capsbot is shown in Figure 12. Depending on the application of the capsbot, one can change the parameters of the capsbot such as inner mass and capsule shell weight, to achieve desired trajectories for the capsbot.

**4. 2. Comparison with Other Works** Some of the other works in the literature [17, 18] are selected to be compared with this work. The parameters of the capsbot in these works are close to those used in this work which are listed in Table 4. The distance that the capsbot traverses in one cycle and the duration of each cycle for each work is also shown in Table 5.

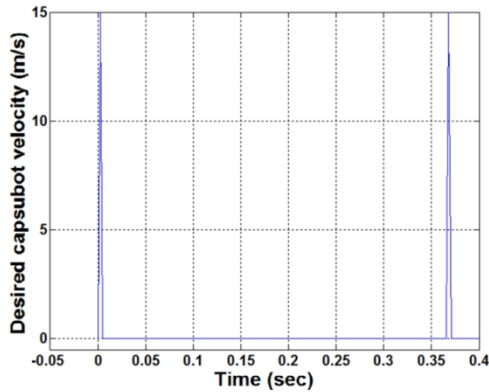


Figure 9. Desired capsbot velocity

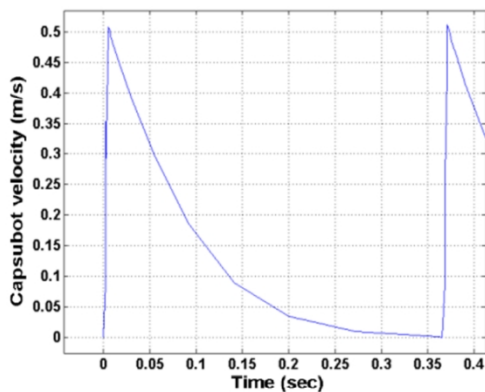


Figure 10. Capsbot velocity

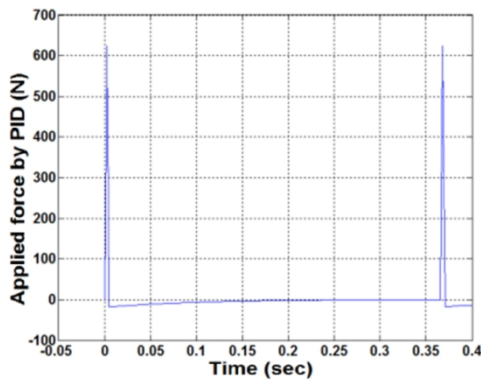


Figure 11. Applied force by PID to capsbot

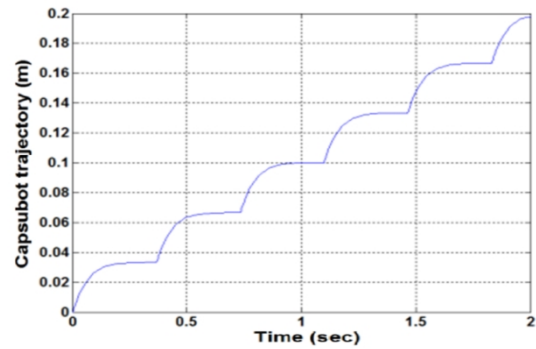


Figure 12. Capsbot Trajectory

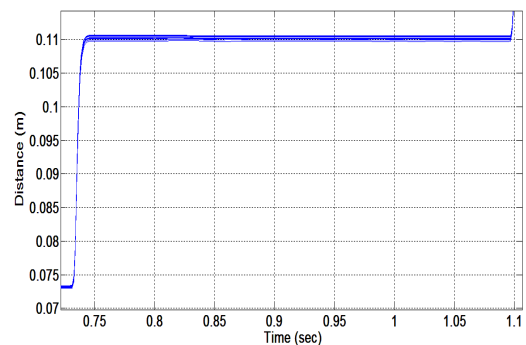


Figure 13. Trajectory of the capsbot for different cases in Table 6.

**TABLE 6.** Corruption percentages in the values of the parameters

Case	$m$	$M$	$a$	$m_{ik}$
1	3%	-1%	3%	-1%
2	-1%	0	2%	-3%
3	-2%	3%	2%	2%
4	-4%	-3%	-1%	2%
5	1%	-2%	-3%	5%
6	1%	-2%	2%	3%
7	1%	5%	-4%	4%
8	0	-2%	-2%	-4%
9	3%	-3%	-2%	3%
10	1%	-25	0	-3%

It can be seen that the duration of one cycle in this work is longer than those of [17, 18]. But, the distance that the capsbot traverses is more than those works. The speed of the capsbot shows considerable improvement of the proposed method in this work.

**4. 3. Sensitivity Analysis** In order to check the robustness of the proposed method to the fabrication error, a maximum error of  $\pm 5\%$  of original values of the parameters of the capsbot including the weight of inner

mass, the weight of capsule body, the kinetic friction coefficient and the capsule length were added randomly to them. Next, simulations were performed with the parameters achieved from the proposed algorithm. These simulations were performed for different cases of adding random error and the results for the capsule trajectory are shown in Figure 13. The percentage of added error to each parameter in each case is shown in Table 6. As in can be seen in Figure 13, fabrication error does not have a major effect on the behavior of the capsbot. In different cases of adding random error, the capsule body almost traverses the same trajectory and the error is negligible.

## 5. CONCLUSION

This paper developed a novel approach to design of a closed-loop control system with a PID controller for the capsbot. First, the transfer function of the capsbot was estimated. An appropriate cost function was chosen in order to minimize the error between the desired velocity and the capsbot velocity. Simulations were then performed to show the results, and the effectiveness of the proposed approach was demonstrated. Next, the results were compared with those of other works in the literature. It was seen that the speed of capsbot was more than that of similar works. It should be noted that the amount of required force was not limited in this work which should be considered as a limiting criterion in practical applications. Future work can include using other metaheuristic methods to design the controller, developing control approaches other than PID-based controllers, designing new motion profiles, reducing the size of capsbot and optimizing the required force. Also, implementation and fabrication of proposed models for capsbot in order to evaluate and test these methods are of value.

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# An Optimized PID for Capsubots using Modified Chaotic Genetic Algorithm

**RESEARCH  
NOTE**

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در این مقاله یک طرح برای یک ربات کپسولی در ابعاد چند صد میکرون تا چند ده میلی متر ارائه شده است. از این ربات کپسولی برای به دست آوردن اطلاعات تشخیصی پزشکی و رساندن دارو به قسمت های غیرقابل دسترس از بدن استفاده می-شود. برای کنترل این ربات، پس از مدل کردن سیستم ربات کپسولی و به دست آوردن تابع تبدیل آن، یک روش کنترل ارائه شده است: کنترل حلقه بسته با استفاده از کنترل کننده تناسبی-انتگرالی-مشتقی. برای بهینه سازی ضرایب کنترل کننده یک الگوریتم ژنتیک آشوبی اصلاح شده پیشنهاد شده است. سپس شبیه سازی هایی انجام شده تا نتایج روش ارائه شده بررسی شوند. در نهایت نتایج به دست آمده با نتایج مشابه موجود در ادبیات ربات کپسولی مقایسه شدند.

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