Multi-Objective Robust Design of New Rotate Barrel Based on Satisfaction Function

Hanzheng SUN, Zhengbao LEI, Yupeng HUANG, Jianghong Yu

Abstract: In this paper, a multi-objective robust design method based on satisfaction function was proposed by combining satisfaction function with Taguchi robust to solve the multi-objective optimization problem, which was easily interfered by noise factor. This method converted the signal-to-noise ratio of product quality characteristics into the expected smaller-the-better of Taguchi robust design, and realized the multi-objective robust design by weighted geometric mean, so as to solve the multi-objective optimization problem easily affected by noise factors. Under the premise of without changing rotate barrel of basic size by LS-DYNA FE model of rotary guardrail, the proposed method was carried out on the rotate barrel of multi-objective robust design, in order to solve the new rotary guardrail section parameter uncertain multi-objective optimization design. The results showed that the robust design of the new rotate barrel could resist the interference of the noise, the structure was more robust, and it conformed to the relevant laws and regulations by which was realized the purpose of lightweight of the new rotary guardrail. The research results had certain theoretical and engineering significance in improving the robustness of the new rotary guardrail.

Keywords: multi-objective; rotate barrel; satisfaction function; signal-to-noise ratio; Taguchi robust design

1 INTRODUCTION

Much of the current research in product design was driven by the fact that all real world engineering systems were comprised of uncertain parameters [1-3]. Therefore, the field of structural optimization needs to carry out more extensive research on design methods. For example, robust optimization which maximizes the robustness function, as well as the extreme case design [4-6]. Based on the orthogonal experimental design, Taguchi’s robust design method played an important role in product design. In the early design stage, it could effectively reduce the sensitivity of product performance to noise fluctuation [7, 8]. However, guardrail products were not a single target in traffic safety settings. Therefore, it was necessary to develop a new robust method for products with multi-objective optimization design.

In practical engineering design, multi-objective optimization problems were usually transformed into single-objective problems by linear weighting, such as using genetic algorithms to optimize the proxy model [9]. Martin converted the optimization problem of multi-objective function corresponding to multi-operating load into the optimization problem of single objective function by adopting the weighted compromise programming method [10]. McDonald and Heller incorporated robust designed strategies to develop an iterative 2D FE optimization procedure, which was used to decide on precise shape of a hole in a plate to maximize its fatigue life [11]. Ozturk proposed an efficient method for fatigue based shape optimization to obtain the robust design of an oil sump shape with consideration of the variation of the clamping forces [12].

However the premise of these methods was that the research objects had not considered the influence of noise factors on products in real time. Therefore, in this paper the maximum acceleration of the sedan (X, Y, Z) direction and the maximum lateral deviation of the guardrail after the passenger hit the guardrail were taken as the objective function. Through difference analysis and Variance analysis, the influence of noise factor was considered, a multi-objective robust design method put forward based on the satisfaction function, the satisfaction function method was introduced into the rotate barrel of parameter optimization design of the pipe cross section. It helped to reduce the new type of rotate barrel structure noise factors on the sensitivity of random fluctuations, improved the new type of rotary guardrail of design parameters and objective function robustness, achieved the goal of lightweight structure.

2 ROTARY GUARDRAIL ROBUSTNESS PROBLEM WITH MULTI-OBJECTIVE SATISFACTION

Optimization objectives such as guardrail products were multiple targets. In the optimization goal, structure usually needed to meet different design requirements at the same time, and set the traffic safety guardrail products as an example. It did not just want to control the vehicle collision guardrail in the three directions (X, Y, Z), which must be less than the maximum acceleration ORA of 20 g, but also required guardrail maximum offset Δ was less than 1000 mm. Therefore, for the problem of multi-objective optimization design, the maximum deviation of guardrail should not exceed the threshold in the specification on the premise that the maximum acceleration of runaway vehicles was less than the standard value. Taken the rotate barrel as example, it was an important part of the rotary guardrail, when uncontrolled vehicle hit rotary guardrail by rotate barrel turning around columns, the vehicle drives out of the exercise direction of the return to normal, and it will rotate barrel between the above two guardrail beams.

Figure 1 New rotate barrel: (a) New rotate barrel elevation; (b) New rotate barrel section
Combined with the traditional rotary guardrail, the use of the process suffered from runaway vehicle affected, a new rotate barrel structure designed, and the basic configuration is shown in Fig. 1. The energy absorbing cavity structure in the outer circumference area of the upper part of rotate barrel was used to absorb the collision energy of runaway vehicles, and the middle part was used to drive the runaway vehicles to run in the normal track by rotating around the column, to achieve the purpose of using the guardrail.

3 NEW ROTARY GUARDRAIL FE MODE ESTABLISHMENT AND VEHICLE FE MODEL VERIFICATION

3.1 FE Models of New Rotary Guardrail

LS-DYNA was used to establish FE models of new rotary guardrail and vehicle, such as a new type of rotate barrel of the B-T differentiate four node shell element. The grid cell size was \(15 \times 15\) mm, vehicle FE model was suitable for large deformation of the structure, which was used to 3 points of integral unit. The grid size of model units was controlled within 15 mm, each grid unit warping angle of maximum angle control in less than \(15^\circ\) and \(135^\circ\), the triangular mesh number was controlled within 5%. Fig. 2 shows the FE model of the new rotate barrel and the new rotary guardrail.

![Figure 2](image.png)

3.2 Validation of Vehicle FE Modal for Topology Optimization

The accuracy of the FE model of the vehicle was directly related to the reliability of the simulation results. Before the simulation test, this paper intended to comprehensively evaluate the correctness of the vehicle FE model by qualitative and quantitative aspects of the FE model of the 10 t passenger and the 1.5 t sedan. As shown in Tab. 1, the geometric parameters tables of 10 t passenger and 1.5 t sedan were given, the relevant parameters shown in Tab. 1, the FE models of 10 t passenger and 1.5 sedan were established. When the uncontrolled vehicle collides with the guardrail, there is contact between them. In order to prevent the contact between the out-of-control vehicle and the guardrail, the guardrail and the uncontrolled vehicle model adopted Automatic-Single-Surface, the contact method that defines the self-contact between the guardrail and the out of control vehicle. At the same time, the contact between the test vehicle and the guardrail is adopted. By definition of Automatic-Surface-to-Surface, the set dynamic and static friction coefficients were 0.30 and 0.20 [13].

![Figure 3](image.png)

![Figure 4](image.png)

As shown in Fig. 3, Fig. 4, the real vehicle and FE vehicle of the 10 t passenger and the 1.5 t sedan, and the collision test conditions described in Tab. 1 were set with reference to the relevant specifications [14, 15].

| Vehicle type | Vehicle quality / t | Vehicle size / mm | Vehicle centroid coordinates / mm |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Passenger    | 10                  | 9020, 2440, 2880  | 4510, 1220, 1100                 |
| Sedan        | 1.5                 | 3750, 1586, 1433  | 1870, 492                        |

| Simulationmodal | Density / kg/m³ | Elasticity modulus / MPa | Poisson ratio / - | Yield strength / MPa | Failure equivalent Plastic strain |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Passenger       | 7870            | 2.10×10³                 | 0.30             | 235                  | 0.75                             |
| Sedan           | 7870            | 2.10×10³                 | 0.30             | 235                  | 0.75                             |
| Rotate barrel   | 150             | 5.78×10³                 | 0.25             | 235                  | 0.75                             |
| Column          | 7870            | 2.10×10³                 | 0.30             | 235                  | 0.75                             |
| Profilled bar   | 7870            | 2.10×10³                 | 0.30             | 235                  | 0.75                             |
| U Block         | 7870            | 2.10×10³                 | 0.30             | 235                  | 0.75                             |
3.2.1 Verification of Passenger FE Model

Fig. 5, Fig. 6 were the trajectories of the real passenger and simulate passenger impact guardrail. It could be seen that during the collision process between the guardrail and the passenger under no abnormal driving conditions, the driving trajectory was the same.

Fig. 5 The motion condition of real passenger

Fig. 6 The motion condition of simulation passenger

Herein, the maximum acceleration values at the center of mass of the vehicle were used for quantitative evaluation. Fig. 7 presents the acceleration curves in \((X, Y, Z)\) at the mass center of the real passenger test, while their maximum values were \(ORA_x = 2.65 \text{g}, ORA_y = 1.94 \text{g}, \) and \(ORA_z = 2.93 \text{g}\), respectively. The acceleration curves in the three directions at the mass center of the simulated test passenger are depicted in Fig. 8, and the maximum acceleration values were \(ORA_x = 2.75 \text{g}, ORA_y = 2.04 \text{g}, \) and \(ORA_z = 3.05 \text{g}\). By comparing Fig. 7, Fig. 8, it was revealed that the maximum acceleration error in various directions did not exceed 5%.

Fig. 7 Experimental aspect to the acceleration of the passenger train: (a) X-direction acceleration; (b) Y-direction acceleration; (c) Z-direction acceleration

Fig. 8 Simulation aspect to the acceleration of the passenger train: (a) X-direction acceleration; (b) Y-direction acceleration; (c) Z-direction acceleration

3.1.2 Verification of Sedan Car FE Model

Fig. 9, Fig. 10 were respectively the 1.5 t sedan simulation test and the running track of the real vehicle test vehicle. It could be seen that during the collision between the vehicle and the guardrail, the vehicle did not show the phenomenon of drilling and smashing, and the collision trajectory of the vehicle and the guardrail was the same. As could be seen from Fig. 11, the damage positions of the actual and simulated were the same.

Fig. 12, Fig. 13 are divided into the maximum acceleration curves in the three directions of the vehicle's
center of mass in the actual sedan and simulated sedan crash test. The actual vehicle mass acceleration values were: \( ORA_x = 12.67 \, g \), \( ORA_y = 12.38 \, g \), \( ORA_z = 11.41 \, g \). The acceleration value of the simulated vehicle centroid was: \( ORA_x = 13.25 \, g \), \( ORA_y = 13.01 \, g \), \( ORA_z = 12.02 \, g \). It could be seen that the error values of the maximum acceleration values in the three directions of the real vehicle and the simulated vehicle were all controlled within 5%.

Through the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the FE model of the 1.5 t sedan, the FE model of the 1.5 t sedan, the actual vehicle running state and damage degree were basically consistent with the real vehicle, and the acceleration error was within 5%, so the 1.5 t sedan FE was reliable in future simulation work.

In the course of rotate barrel and guardrail rushing, it was used Cowper-Symonds constitutive model taking strain rate effect into account:

\[
\sigma_Y = \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{\varepsilon'}{C} \right)^P \right] \left[ \sigma_0 + P \left( \varepsilon'_{eff} \right) \right] \tag{1}
\]

where \( \sigma_Y \) is the stress considering strain rate \( \varepsilon' \), \( C \) and \( P \) represent material strain rate parameter, \( \sigma_0 \) is single-axis tensile stress, \( f_e(\varepsilon'_{eff}) \) is the hardening function based on the effective plastic strain [16]. In this paper Eq. (1) \( C = 40, \ P = 5 \).

4 SATISFACTION FUNCTION MULTI-OBJECTIVE ROBUSTNESS DESIGN METHOD

The concept of satisfaction was to learn from the multi-objective decision making problem in statistics. After one thing appeared, it was judged whether satisfied or not based on people's subjective desires. As shown in Fig. 14, a satisfactory procedure was indicated by \( q \), \( q = 1 \) was fully satisfied, and \( q = 1 \) was completely dissatisfied, where \( q \in (0, \ 1) \).
Signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) could be classified from its means less quality loss, and the product is more robust. Fluctuations in product data. A larger signal-to-noise ratio value. Combined with the product quality characteristics response, we could know that the smaller-the-better characteristic (STB), larger-the-better characteristics: nominal-the-better characteristic (NTB), the quality characteristics of the product were transformed into satisfaction, while at the same time it is satisfying the STB in the robust design. Although the satisfaction function of STB was converted, its expression could be defined as Eq. (5):

\[
d_i(\eta) = \begin{cases} 
1 & \eta \leq \eta_{\min} \\
\frac{\eta - \eta_{\min}}{\eta_{\max} - \eta_{\min}} & \eta_{\min} < \eta < \eta_{\max} \\
0 & \eta_{\max} \leq \eta 
\end{cases}
\]

Where: \( d_i(\eta) \) was the satisfaction value of the output response function \( Y_i \), and \( 0 \leq d_i(\eta) \leq 1 \), \( \eta_{\max} \), and \( \eta_{\min} \) were the upper and lower limits of the signal-to-noise ratio compared with the output response value, and the values were calculated by actual conditions and related data. When evaluating the satisfaction of multiple goals, it was necessary to convert multiple single-objective satisfaction functions into a total satisfaction function for comprehensive evaluation, and then the overall satisfaction \( D(x) \in (0,1) \) could be expressed as Eq. (6):

\[
D(x) = \left( d_1 \times d_2 \times \ldots \times d_k \right)^{\frac{1}{k}}
\]

where: \( d_i \) was the satisfaction of the \( i \)th sub-reaction, where \( j = 1, 2, \ldots, k \).

4.3 Optimization Design of Section Parameters of Rotate Barrel of New Rotary Guardrail

According to Standard for Safety performance Evaluation of Highway Barrier JTG B05-01-2013 [14], the safety performance of the guardrail should have the function of blocking, buffering and guiding. It was forbidden for any vehicle to cross, climb or ride guardrail in any form. In this paper, the maximum acceleration ORA in the (X, Y, Z) directions of the sedan's center of mass and the maximum lateral offset \( A \) of the guardrail after the collision of the passenger were used as the objective function. Therefore, in order to unify the evaluation index, the maximum acceleration \( ORA \) and the maximum lateral offset \( A \) could be dimensionlessly processed. (This paper stipulated the maximum acceleration \( ORA \geq 16 \) g and the maximum lateral displacement \( A \geq 800 \) mm, and the satisfaction value of the output response was 0, and the overall conversion was the overall satisfaction as the evaluation index).

4.3.1 Determination of Orthogonal Test Factors and Levels

Under the premise of ensuring, the inner diameter is \( r_1 = 150 \) mm, and outer diameter is \( r_2 = 150 \) mm of the new rotate barrel. The design factors for the cross-section configuration of the new rotate barrel were determined initially-the outer wall thickness \( A \), the outer support plate thickness \( B \), the support plate length \( C \), and the inner support plate thickness \( D \), which were the experimental factors for the orthogonal test. A new rotate barrel section configuration was shown in Fig. 14.
The orthogonal test was performed by using \( L_{16}(4^4) \) orthogonal table, and the orthogonal test was generated by SPSS (statistical product and service solutions). The collision conditions were as shown in Tab. 4, and the results of related data collection are shown in Tab. 5.

Because of the range analysis, the variance analysis could be used to determine the contribution rate of the overall satisfaction of the new rotate barrel section design factors as shown in Fig. 16. The design factors were based on the contribution rate of the corresponding overall factors \( A, C, B, D \).
4.4 Multi-Target Robust Design of New Rotary Guardrail

4.4.1 Controllable Factors and Noise Factor Selection

The traditional parameter optimization design did not consider the influence of the noise factor on the test results, but the noise factor exists in real time. In order to improve the robustness of the new rotate barrel structure, according to the variance analysis shown in Fig. 17, the two factors $A$ and $C$ were the controllable factors of the robust design, as shown in Tab. 6.

According to the vehicle quality tolerance error, the collision speed tolerance error, and the collision angle tolerance error specified in the literature [15, 16], the multi-objective robustness design was performed as shown in Tab. 7.

| LEVEL | FACTOR / mm |
|-------|-------------|
| 1     | $A$ 22      |
|       | $C$ 25      |
| 2     | $A$ 25      |
|       | $C$ 28      |
| 3     | $A$ 28      |
|       | $C$ 31      |
| 4     | $A$ 31      |
|       | $C$ 34      |

Table 6 Controllable factor level table for robust design of new rotate barrel section

Table 7 Noise factor table for robust design of new rotary guardrail

| LEVEL | FACTOR |
|-------|--------|
| 1     | $D$ $-75$ |
|       | $E$ $0$ |
|       | $F$ $-1$ |
| 2     | $D$ $0$ |
|       | $E$ $4$ |
|       | $F$ $1.5$ |

D - Permissible errors in vehicle quality, kg; E - Permissible errors in collision speed, km/h; F - Permissible errors in collision angle.

4.4.2 Optimal Combination Analysis of Multi-Objective Robust Design

The mean maximum acceleration, the mean maximum offset of guardrail, and Overall satisfaction of the new rotate barrel obtained after multi-objective robustness optimization design were shown in Tab. 8.

By extremum difference analysis method as shown in Fig. 18, the optimal combination of controllable factors in the design of robustness was: $A_3, C_3$, the outer wall thickness was 28 mm, the support plate length was 31 mm.

By variance analysis, the corresponding contribution rate of the overall satisfaction corresponding to each controllable factor was shown in Fig. 18. The contribution rate was $C$ and $A$ by the orthogonal test. The final determination of the optimal combination of robustness was the outer wall thickness 28 mm, the outer support plate thickness 5 mm, the support plate length 31 mm and the inner support plate thickness 6 mm.

Figure 16 Contribution rate of overall satisfaction degree corresponding to each design factor of the new rotate barrel section

Figure 17 Average response value of total satisfaction of controllable factors in robust design of new rotary guardrail

Figure 18 Contribution rate of overall satisfaction degree corresponding to new rotary guardrail

Figure 19 Optimization of the sedan before the center of mass acceleration: (a) X-direction acceleration; (b) Y-direction acceleration; (c) Z-direction acceleration
5 DISCUSSION

The traditional robust design method belonged to the single-objective optimization problem, which was difficult to achieve the multi-objective optimization and did not consider the impact of noise factors on products in real time. However, noise factors existed in actual product design. This method could solve the optimization problem of multi-objective robust design with noise factor. On the premise of keeping the basic size of rotate barrel section unchanged, the relevant parameters were obtained by adopting the robustness design of multi-objective satisfaction function considering the noise factor. The final determination of the optimal combination of robustness was: the outer wall thickness 28 mm, the outer support plate thickness 5 mm, the support plate length 31 mm and the inner support plate thickness 6 mm. The cross section parameters of rotate barrel obtained by orthogonal experiment without noise, the outer wall thickness was 25 mm, and the outer support plate thickness was 5 mm. The support plate length was 25 mm, and the inner support plate thickness was 6 mm. By using acceleration ORA and its maximum offset as a double evaluation index, there is a decline in the knowable acceleration, and guardrail maximum offset. Before optimization the acceleration value at the center of mass of sedan was ORAx = 7.5g, ORAY = 8.88g, ORAZ = 5.24g as shown in Fig. 19. The passenger maximum deviation of guardrail was 398.46 mm. The optimized acceleration value at the center of mass of sedan was ORAx = 7.01g, ORAY = 6.73g, ORAZ = 4.51g as shown in Fig. 20, and the passenger maximum deviation of guardrail was 345.98 mm. The maximum offset declined 52.48 mm.

6 CONCLUSIONS

Aimed at the multi-objective optimization and the influence of noise problem, this paper combined the signal-to-noise ratio and satisfaction function to establish a multi-objective robust design method based on satisfaction function, and utilized the multi-objective robust design method. The satisfaction function of the multi-objective robust design of the new rotating cylinder was studied. The robust design of the new rotating cylinder after the response mean and response standard deviation was reduced, and the collision FE analysis was set according to the relevant specifications. In the collision analysis of the new rotating guardrail with and without noise factors, the maximum acceleration and maximum deviation of the guardrail were reduced by 2.15 g and 52.48 mm, achieving the goal of light weighting.

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Contact information:

Hanzheng SUN
Large Structural Crash Testing Laboratory,
Changsha University of Science & Technology,
Changsha 410114, China
E-mail: 836233052@qq.com

Zhengbao LEI
(Corresponding author)
Large Structural Crash Testing Laboratory,
Changsha University of Science & Technology,
Changsha 410114, China
E-mail: doclei@163.com

Yupeng HUANG
Large Structural Crash Testing Laboratory,
Changsha University of Science & Technology,
Changsha 410114, China

Jianghong YU
Large Structural Crash Testing Laboratory,
Changsha University of Science & Technology,
Changsha 410114, China