





Advanced Aerospace Control Exam project

Marco LOVERA

Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Aerospaziali, Politecnico di Milano





- Dynamics of a quadrotor helicopter
- Overview of the considered platform
 - Conceptual design and preliminary sizing
 - Characterisation of sensors and actuators
 - Inertial Measurement Unit calibration
 - Actuator analysis
 - □ Identification of roll and pitch dynamics

Attitude estimation

- Attitude control law design
- Project task

Inputs



Multirotor helicopters



Application areas:

- Inspection
- Surveillance
- > Security
- Mapping
- Search & Rescue
- Video and Photography
- ▶ ...

Depending on the application, different designs might be suitable



- Design requirements:
 - Take-off weight: < 2 kg</p>
 - Flight time: about 10'
 - Payload: at least 500 g
 - Suitable as platform for control research and education.
 - Frame configuration: X-quadrotor
 - Frame dimensions: medium size







• A calibration platform for the on-board IMU has been designed and built





POLITECNICO DI MILANO

Characterisation of sensors and actuators: IMU calibration

• Accelerometer and magnetometer calibration results



POLITECNICO DI MILANO



Gyroscope calibration results



POLITECNICO DI MILANO



- TESTING PLATFORM
- To measure the propeller's thrust against rotational speed

> Sensors

- Load cell
- - Optical tachometer
- 🛛 Angular rate
- Electronic board
 - Arduino MEGA











9

STATIC RESPONSE ESTIMATION

• According to rotor momentum theory the following relations between thrust and rotational speed hold $\widehat{C}_T = \frac{\widehat{K}_T}{\rho A R^2}$

 $T = K_T \Omega^2$ $K_T = C_T \rho A R^2$ $\widehat{C}_P = \frac{\widehat{C}_T^{3/2}}{\sqrt{2}}$ $\widehat{C}_Q = \widehat{C}_P$

• Relationship between the percentage of throttle and propeller's rotational speed

$$\Omega = \widehat{m}Th_{\%} + \widehat{q}$$

POLITECNICO DI MILANO



Results of least-squares fit for static motor and propeller model



• Linear characteristic



• Quadratic characteristic



DINAMIC RESPONSE

 Assuming a first order dynamical relationship between the percentage of throttle as input and the rotational speed of the propeller as output





Quadrotor helicopter configuration



POLITECNICO DI MILANO













Overall model for linear and angular quadrotor dynamics

 $m \dot{V}_b + \omega_b \times (mV_b) = F_g + F_{props}$ $I_n \dot{\omega}_b + \omega_b \times (I_n \omega_b) = M_{damp} + M_{props}$

Gravity component

$$F_g = T_{BE}(\Phi, \Theta, \Psi) \begin{bmatrix} 0\\ 0\\ mg \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -S_{\Theta}\\ S_{\Phi}C_{\Theta}\\ C_{\Phi}C_{\Theta} \end{bmatrix} mg.$$

Damping component

$$M_{damp} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L}{\partial p} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \frac{\partial M}{\partial q} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \frac{\partial N}{\partial r} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p\\ q\\ r \end{bmatrix}$$

Propellers thrust and torque

$$F_{props} = -\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ K_T \left(\Omega_1^2 + \Omega_2^2 + \Omega_3^2 + \Omega_4^2\right) \end{bmatrix} \qquad M_{props} = \begin{bmatrix} K_T \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\Omega_1^2 - \Omega_2^2 - \Omega_3^2 + \Omega_4^2\right) \\ K_T \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\Omega_1^2 + \Omega_2^2 - \Omega_3^2 - \Omega_4^2\right) \\ K_Q \left(-\Omega_1^2 + \Omega_2^2 - \Omega_3^2 + \Omega_4^2\right) \end{bmatrix}$$



Mixer matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} T \\ L \\ M \\ N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} K_T & K_T & K_T & K_T \\ K_T \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} & -K_T \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} & -K_T \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} & K_T \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} \\ K_T \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} & K_T \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} & -K_T \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} & -K_T \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -K_Q & K_Q & -K_Q & K_Q \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Omega_1^2 \\ \Omega_2^2 \\ \Omega_3^2 \\ \Omega_4^2 \end{bmatrix}$$





Simulink multirotor simulation environment





$$\begin{split} \dot{\phi} &= p + \sin(\phi) \tan(\theta) \, q + \cos(\phi) \tan(\theta) \, r \\ \dot{\theta} &= \cos(\phi) \, q - \sin(\phi) \, r \\ \dot{\psi} &= \frac{\sin(\phi)}{\cos(\theta)} \, q + \frac{\cos(\phi)}{\cos(\theta)} \, r \end{split}$$

$$\dot{p} = \frac{I_y - I_z}{I_x} q r + \frac{1}{I_x} M_p$$
$$\dot{q} = \frac{I_z - I_x}{I_y} p r + \frac{1}{I_y} M_q$$
$$\dot{r} = \frac{I_x - I_y}{I_z} p q + \frac{1}{I_z} M_r$$



The complementary filter of Mahony et al.

The filter of Mahony *et al.*, is a nonlinear attitude observer formulated on the special orthogonal group SO(3).

Algorithm:

1. Drift estimation:

$$\omega_{mes} = vex \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{K_i}{2} \left(b_i \hat{b}_i^T - \hat{b}_i b_i^T \right) \right), \hat{b}_i = \hat{A}_{k-1} r_i,$$

$$vex\left(\Omega\times\right)=\Omega,\quad\Omega\in\mathcal{R}^{3}.$$

2. Bias estimation and gyroscope depolarization

$$\hat{\omega}_k = \tilde{\omega}_k - \hat{\beta}_k - K_p \omega_{mes}, \hat{\beta}_k = \hat{\beta}_{k-1} + K_i \omega_{mes} \delta t.$$

3. Quaternion integration

$$\hat{q}_{k} = \left(I_{4} + \frac{1}{2}\Omega\left(\hat{\omega}_{k}\right)\delta t\right)\hat{q}_{k-1}.$$



19

 As an absolute reference of the attitude measure a motion capture system (OptiTrack) has been used.





Tuning and experimental results





Table 1: RMS errors for the considered filters.



• Linearized pitch model

$$I_{yy} \dot{q} = \frac{\partial M}{\partial q} q + \frac{\partial M}{\partial u} \delta \Omega \qquad \longrightarrow \qquad \Theta = \left[I_{yy}, \frac{\partial M}{\partial q} \right]$$
$$\dot{\Theta} = q$$









Pitch and roll control architecture



Yaw-rate control architecture







• Structured H_{∞} synthesis



 $\|T_{w\to z}\left(P(s), K(s,\theta)\right)\|_{\infty}$

- Requirements:
 - Set-point tracking

$$J(\theta) = \left\| \frac{1}{MaxError} \left(F(s,\theta) - 1 \right) \right\|_{\infty}$$

$$MaxError = \frac{(PeakError)s + \omega_c(DCError)}{s + \omega_c}$$

> Maximum loop gain

$$J(\theta) = \|W_T F(s,\theta)\|_{\infty}$$

> Disturbance rejection

$$J(\theta) = \max_{\omega \in \Omega} \|W(j\omega)S(j\omega, \theta)\|$$

POLITECNICO DI MILANO





Robustness analysis

 $G_m(s) = G_n(s)(1 + W(s) \triangle(s)), \|\triangle\|_{\infty} < 1$







Robustness analysis -> Loop function



POLITECNICO DI MILANO





Simulink implementation







• Step response results







Inputs:

- Quadrotor simulation model (Simulink)
- Uncertain design model, cascade of
 - identified attitude dynamics
 - Actuator dynamics
 - Dynamics of attitude estimation filter
- Description of current controller structure
- Performance requirements:
 - Tracking
 - Disturbance attenuation
- Benchmark mission profile: position and heading setpoint to be tracked

POLITECNICO DI MILANO





Tasks:

- Construction of uncertain design model
- Definition of performance weights for mixed sensitivity synthesis
- Design of unstructured controller
- Design of structured controller matching current implementation
- Verification in simulation on benchmark mission profile
- In-flight validation on real quadrotor (with one possibility for re-tuning)





Expected outputs:

- Presentation of adopted design approach and design results
- In-flight validation.



- Located in building B14
- 5 x 5 x 5 m cage
- Optitrack 3D motion capture system
- Optitrack data (position and attitude) used on-board
- Available for project validation







- To do even minimal experimental work in the DAER labs an extra safety course must be taken.
- The course takes about half a day and takes place approximately once every two month.
- Next edition: May 5.
- So: if you are interested in the exam project AND plan to do the exam in June/July, let me know asap so I can register you for the course.