Voice Controlled Data Collection Parrot A.R Drone

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"See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil."

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Abstract

I intend to create a voice controlled web interface for piloting a Parrot A.R Drone and remotely collecting atmospheric data. The web interface will contain a live stream of the drone's camera, along with collecting voice commands from the user. These voice commands will control the drone's movements, but also control mounted sensors, like a barometer or thermometer, to begin or end data collection. This web interface for atmospheric sensor and drone control will aid researchers in remote data collection.

1 Problem/Purpose/Engineering Goals

I aim to provide a voice controlled web interface for piloting a Parrot A.R Drone and remotely collecting atmospheric data. First of all, I will attach various atmospheric sensors to a microcontroller mounted on a Parrot A.R Drone. Then, I will implement a web application view and voice control interface for the drone and sensors to both pilot the drone and collect data remotely.

2 Background

2.1 Preliminary Information

Drones are an up and coming technology of remotely controlled aerial vehicles. The Parrot A.R Drone is a consumer version that exposes a control library, which can be controlled with C. There is also a publicly availible NodeJS wrapper on the library [2]. Voice commands are often implemented for ease of use of various technologies like mobile phones, car climate controls, and music speakers [3]. Atmoshperic data, like temperature and pressure, are typically collected through weather balloons and are almost always remotely controlled or preprogrammed.

2.2   Area of Research and Related Theory

This project will span across three fields. First of all, it will include the drone control field that has been revolutionized by gesture recognition technologies like the Myo [4] or the Kinect [1]. Secondly, it will dabble in the field of voice commands for common technologies. For example, Siri is used to control phones and many cars have voice commands for tools like the radio and climate control. Thirdly, it will contribute to the atmospheric data analysis field. This research is typically conducted through weather balloons, but perhaps drones are the future of the field.

2.3   Significance

This research will contribute to the prevalance of drones due to a more user-friendly control station. Since drones are becoming more common, the field will benefit from more varied options for controlling them, and thus this technology will fill that niche. It also will expand the voice command field by extending the functionality to drones. Furthermore, it will contribute to weather and atmospheric research by providing a novel method of collecting data (drones rather than weather balloons).

3   Research Techniques/Methods

3.1   What it will do

With the help of my project, users will be able to issue voice commands to a web-app to control the mounted sensors and pilot the drone. The web application will be responsible for recieving commands and displaying current sensor readings and the drone camera view. The collected sensor information can be stored for later analysis of the atmospheric data.

3.2   How it will do it

Voice commands will be processed through a voice recognition API to translate the natural language entered into concrete drone and sensor commands. These commands will be transmitted to the drone through the drone's WiFi hotspot or to the mounted sensors. Throughout this process, the drone and sensors will constantly be sending back data to the user, such as the camera view and the sensor readings, which will be displayed for convenience in a web-app view. The middle-man between the user and the drone will be the NodeJS backend, which will facilitate transmitting data from the drone to the front-end and translating commands from the user's voice to the drone's API commands.

4 Materials

Parrot A.R Drone

Drone to be controlled through voice commands.

Desktop/Laptop

The input vector for the user to issue their voice commands.

Microcontroller

Microcontroller will be attached to the drone, and will control the various attached sensors.

Various Sensors

Sensors for various data collection, such as temperature, altitude, atmospheric pressure, etc.

Various Electronic Parts

Breadboard, wires, etc. to connect the microcontroller to the sensors.

5 References

References

[1] Jones, G. (2012, November 16). Kinect-drone. Retrieved September 24, 2015, from https://github.com/glennjones/kinect-drone

[2] Geisendörfer, F. (2012, July 21). Node AR Drone. Retrieved September 29, 2015, from https://github.com/felixge/node-ar-drone

[3] Cmusphinx/node-pocketsphinx. (2014, May 25). Retrieved September 29, 2015, from https://github.com/cmusphinx/node-pocketsphinx

[4] Controlling the Parrot AR.Drone 2.0 with the Myo™ Armband. (2013, October 2). Retrieved September 29, 2015, from http://developerblog.myo.com/controlling-the-parrot-ar-drone-2-0-with-the-myo-armband/