

# Quaternion EKF

Albert Author<sup>1</sup> and Bernard D. Researcher<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract**—Pose estimation has long been a subject of interest to researchers

This paper presents an EKF based pose estimation and tracking for situations where direct sensing is not feasible. We expand on the work of Fathian and Dani, [?] and [?], by using their vision based pose and velocity estimation as remote sensing measurements to our EKF model.

Short sentences on what we will present

## I. INTRODUCTION

Similar to Abstract but in past tense and in more detail

In this paper, we combine QUEST and VEST with Kalman Filter.

### A. Background

The Kalman Filter (KF) was formally introduced in the summer of 1960 by Rudolf E. Kalman where, he formulated the state-space representation of dynamical systems [?].

### B. Notation

Vectors are represented by normal font variables, i.e.  $a, x, y, z$ . Matrices are represented by UPPERCASE letters, i.e.  $A, X, Y, Z$ . *Approximation* vectors are denoted with a tilde i.e.  $\tilde{a}, \tilde{x}, \tilde{y}, \tilde{z}$ . We define approximate function representation in ?? and ?? as the original function with added bias and uniform distribution noise. This form of representation is used to express measurements that are used as approximate control input to the system. This is an essential part the EKF implementation, which we describe in detail in later sections. *Estimation* vectors are represented with a hat, i.e.  $\hat{a}, \hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$ .

### C. Paper Structure

## II. OBSERVATION AND ESTIMATION MODELS

### A. Inertial Model

We start with a basic linear continuous-time state-space representation of a dynamical system and derive

For this paper, we used linear and angular velocities obtained from as known input to the system, where we define  $u \in \mathbb{R}^6$  as,

$$u^T := [v^T \ \omega^T], \quad (1)$$

\*This work was not supported by any organization

<sup>1</sup>Albert Author is with Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Twente, 7500 AE Enschede, The Netherlands [albert.author@papercept.net](mailto:albert.author@papercept.net)

<sup>2</sup>Bernard D. Researcher is with the Department of Electrical Engineering, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435, USA [b.d.researcher@ieee.org](mailto:b.d.researcher@ieee.org)

$$u_B = \begin{bmatrix} C_B^I \\ C_B^I \end{bmatrix} u, \quad (2)$$

where matrix  $C_B^I$  represents the orthonormal rotation from inertial frame,  $I$ , to robots body frame,  $B$ .

$$\tilde{v} = v + n_v + b_v, \quad (3)$$

$$\tilde{\omega} = \omega + n_\omega + b_\omega. \quad (4)$$

where  $n$  and  $b$  represent a uniform distribution or Brownian noise and bias from the measurement. Both  $n$  and  $b$  belong to  $\mathbb{R}^3$

### B. Linearization

### C. Discretization

### D. QUEST

### E. VEST

### F. Observation State Definition

The measurement state definition is defined by linear position,  $r$ , linear velocity,  $v$ , angular velocity,  $\omega$ , and angular orientation in the quaternion space,  $q$ . The observation state vector,  $z$ , is defined as the following:

$$z^T := [r^T \ v^T \ \omega^T \ q_{xyzw}^T], \quad (5)$$

Where the observed the quaternion state is used to compute the corresponding state rotation matrix,  $C_B^I$ . It is important to note that the observation data for position and orientation are treated as *estimation groundtruth* (Keep?????) and velocity values are treated as *control inputs* to the system. Both estimation groundtruth and control inputs carry *process and observation noise*, respectively.

### G. EKF Model

We deployed a modified EKF filter that uses *Quaternion* for representing rotations. We explain these modifications in detail in the *Quaternion Algebra*. We start with a nonlinear continuous-time system model described by,

$$\dot{x} = f(x, u), \quad (6)$$

$$y = h(x, u). \quad (7)$$

Where  $f()$  represents the *process* model and  $h()$  represent the *observation* model. Variables  $\omega_f$  and  $\omega_h$  represent the *process* and *observation* noise, respectively. Vector  $u$  represents input to the system and  $u \in \mathbb{R}^6$ . Vector  $y$  represents the system output and  $y \in \mathbb{R}^6$ .

## H. State Definition

The estimation state,  $x$ , is defined by the robot's linear position  $r \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , velocity  $v \in \mathbb{R}^3$  (MUST GO!!), and the body frame (GLOBAL?????) orientation  $q_{xyz} \in \mathbb{H}^0$ . We provide a detailed description for quaternion space representation in section 3.

$$x^T := [r^T \ v^T \ q_{xyz}^T] \quad (8)$$

Estimation residual is denoted by  $\delta x \in \mathbb{R} + \mathbb{H}$  (How can define the space here??)

$$\delta x^T = [\delta r^T \ \delta v^T \ \delta \phi^T] \quad (9)$$

How was  $\delta \phi^T$  obtained?

## I. Estimation Model

Calculate the incremental rotation matrix  $R_k$  from  $q_{xyzw}$  from observation vector  $z$ , ??.

How is this done? scipy spatial transform module, Rotation object.

This spatial transform is carried out using an *extension of Euler's formula*

$$R_k = Rot_{from_q} (q_{xyzw}^T) \quad (10)$$

## III. QUATERNION ALGEBRA

Quaternion space is a non-minimal representation belonging to  $SO(3)$  Lie group.

### A. Unit Quaternion

Moreover, the quaternion term from the dataset has *four terms* with  $xyzw$  format. Hamilton's quaternion defined by 3 perpendicular imaginary axes  $i, j, k$  with real scalars  $x, y, z$  and a real term  $w$ , which constraints other 3 dimension to a *unit magnitude*. Thus, the fourth term normalizes the vector's magnitude conveniently and preserves the 3D rotation (3 DOF). We define **Unit Hamiltonian** or **Unit Quaternion** as,

$$\mathbb{H}^1 := \{q_{wxyz} = w + xi + yj + zk \in \mathbb{H} \mid w^2 + x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1\} \quad (11)$$

where superscript 1 in  $\mathbb{H}^1$  denotes a unit quaternion space with 4 terms. There are two equal representations for  $\mathbb{H}^1$  subgroup; thus, we provide a concise definition and notation for both to avoid confusion. The the first representation is shown in ?? where the four terms of the quaternion are arranged in  $wxyz$  order and it is represented by  $q_{wxyz}$ . The second quaternion is arranged in  $xyzw$  format and is represented by  $q_{xyzw}$ . It is important to note the difference as both are used in our derivation and implementation.

$$q_{wxyz} = q_{xyzw} ; \quad q_{wxyz}, q_{xyzw} \in \mathbb{H}^1 \quad (12)$$

## B. Pure Quaternion

As previously mentioned, the three imaginary terms of the quaternion represent the 3D angles of interest in radians and the fourth dimension constraints the vector magnitude. Thus to avoid computational errors, in the prediction step, we use the unit quaternion where it only has its three imaginary terms,  $xyz$ . This quaternion space representation is defined by  $\mathbb{H}^0$  and denoted by  $q_{xyz}$  variables.

$$\mathbb{H}^0 := \{q_{xyz} = xi + yj + zk \in \mathbb{H} \mid x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}\} \simeq \mathbb{R}^3 \quad (13)$$

## C. Exponential Map

For calculating incremental rotation in

Incremental rotation estimation using the skew-symmetric matrix obtained from the rotational rate vector and matrix exponential mapping function, [QEKFO1]. Gamma,  $\Gamma$ , represents incremental

$$\Gamma_0 := \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\Delta t^{i+n})}{(i+n)} \omega^{\times i}, \quad (14)$$

Where  $(.)^\times$  represents skew-symmetry matrix of a vector

## D. Updating Quaternion State

$$q_{i+1} = \delta q_i \otimes \hat{q}_i \quad (15)$$

## E. Capturing Quaternion Error

We use the mapping function  $\zeta(.)$  to calculate the quaternion state error from the error rotation vector, [QEKFO1].

$$\delta q = \zeta(\delta \phi), \quad (16)$$

$$\zeta : v \rightarrow \zeta(v) = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(\frac{1}{2}\|v\|) \frac{v}{\|v\|} \\ \cos(\frac{1}{2}\|v\|) \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

## IV. EXTENDED KALMAN FILTER

The ELF handle nonlinearities by forming approximate Gaussian distributions to

### A. State Estimation

In the estimation state, first we estimate current state based on *prior* knowledge or observations.

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_t = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{u}_t) \quad (18)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}}_t = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{u}_t) \mathbf{P}_{t-1} \mathbf{F}^T(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{u}_t) + \mathbf{Q}_t \quad (19)$$

Diagonal matrix  $\mathbf{Q}$  is in  $dim_x \times dim_x$  dimensions and represent the process noise tolerance or innovation (if I recall correctly——).

$$\mathbf{Q}_c = [\mathbf{Q}_t] \quad (20)$$

$\mathbf{H}$  is a 12x9 *observation model*

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \tag{21}$$

L is 9x9 matrix and here it is 9x9.

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} -I & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -C^T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -I \end{bmatrix} \tag{22}$$

F is 9 by 9 matrix and here it is 9x9.

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} I & \Delta t I & 0 \\ 0 & I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I - \Delta t \omega^\times \end{bmatrix} \tag{23}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}_t &= \mathbf{z}_t - \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_t) \\ \mathbf{S}_t &= \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}_t) \hat{\mathbf{P}}_t \mathbf{H}^T(\mathbf{x}_t) + \mathbf{R}_t \\ \mathbf{K}_t &= \hat{\mathbf{P}}_t \mathbf{H}^T(\mathbf{x}_t) \mathbf{S}_t^{-1} \\ \mathbf{x}_t &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}_t + \mathbf{K}_t \mathbf{v}_t \\ \mathbf{P}_t &= (\mathbf{I}_4 - \mathbf{K}_t \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}_t)) \hat{\mathbf{P}}_t \end{aligned}$$

Finally, comp

B. Abbreviations and Acronyms

Defib

C. Units

D. Equations

The equations

Note

E. Some Common Mistakes

V. USING THE TEMPLATE

Use this sample docu

A. Headings, etc

Text heads organiz

B. Figures and Tables

Positioning Figure

TABLE I  
AN EXAMPLE OF A TABLE

One	Two
Three	Four

We suggest

Fig. 1. Inductance ofd

VI. CONCLUSIONS

A conclu

APPENDIX

Appendixes should appear before the acknowledgment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The preferr