

# Instruction Manual Programmable Flight Controller

Prepared for Reiland Systems

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<https://github.com/Brendoncamm/SYP/edit/master/Documents/Instruction%20Manual/InstructionManual.tex>

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## **Abstract**

The following instruction manual provides information regarding the design and usage of the flight controller. The required packages, libraries, installation procedures are outlined in the documentation. The function libraries provided are discussed in detail to ensure clarification.

# 1 Simulink Simulation

This section details how to open the SimuLink Simulation and how to change the existing control signals. The simulation still has a few issues which are discussed in detail within the report.

## 1.1 Opening the Simulation

To open the simulation, open the SimuLink project file. Once that has opened within the MatLab environment, open the Dynamic Simulation diagram. This sheet contains the entire simulation.

## 1.2 Running the Simulation

In its current state, the simulation is rendered through the Mechanics Explorer from Simscape. It is recommended to define test signals in the labeled section. From left to right the signals are Roll, Pitch, Yaw, and then altitude. The test signals should be normalized to between -1 and 1. This is to reflect how controllers such as USB joysticks or PS4 controllers work. Above this area is another highlighted area for limit values. These allow for the user to limit the maximum values of the control signal. For example if the altitude limit is set to 100 meters, and the control signal is at a value of 0.5, the controller will attempt to fly to 50 meters.

# 2 Raspberry Pi

This section details the server script for handling communications to the drone.

## 2.1 Required Software

The python programs outlined in this section should run natively within the Raspbian Operating system on the raspberry pi. It is required that they are run in Python3 or higher as Python 2 standard library does not contain all of the pre-requisites for the servers. Launching the server file in Python 2 will raise an exception. The Python code for this section may be examined in Appendix B.

## 2.2 Control Server

In this python file there are two servers based off of the *socketserver* library. The first handles the UDP packets that hold the controller signal from the GUI. Running the server file from terminal will allow this server to run on port 2222. The second server, for returning data from sensors is not enabled by default.

## 2.3 Communication Feedback Server

This server, included in the same file as the previous server, is a TCP server for responding to requests with a serialized dictionary containing data. To make use of this server it is required to supply it a list of functions that the server will run. Periodically it will iterate through this list and append the returned values of the function to the Data Dictionary.

## 3 GUI

This section gives the user instructions on how to make use of the functionalities the GUI has to offer as well as outlines how to add additional functionality if desired. It begins by explaining the required software and libraries the user must have installed in order to use the GUI. The functionality of the pushbuttons on the GUI will be explained, the section will finish off with where to find helpful resources for QtCreator, PyQt5 and the other libraries used.

### 3.1 Required Software

The following is a list of the required software needed to run the GUI:

- QtDesigner (Included in QtCreator5.6)
- Python3

If your system does not have QtDesigner installed follow these steps:

1. Open your preferred browser and navigate to: <https://www.qt.io/qt5-6/> and click "Download"
2. On the next page select "In-house deployment, private use, or student use" and click "Get Started"
3. On the next page select "No" and click "Get Started"
4. On the next page select "No" and click "Get Started"
5. On the next page select "Desktop/multiscreen application" and click "Get Started"
6. You should now be on a entirely different page outlining the Commerical and Open Source versions of Qt scroll down and select "Get your open source package"
7. On the next page click "Download Now" to download the installer
8. Once you have downloaded the installer run it
9. With the installer now running click "Next"
10. Enter your Qt account information, if you do not already have a Qt account you can make one within the installer enter this information and then click "Next"
11. You should now be on the Setup page on the installer click "Next"
12. Browse for an installation folder or click "Next" to use the default one provided, ensure the "Associate common file types with QtCreator" box is selected
13. On the next page click "Deselect All" at the bottom of the page and then select "Qt5.6" and "Tools" from the list. then click "Next"
14. On the next page select "I agree" and then click "Next"
15. On the next page click "Next"

16. Finally, click "Install"

If your system does not have Python3 installed follow these steps:

1. Open your preferred browser and navigate to <https://www.python.org/downloads/>
2. Click on "Python 3.x" where x is the version number. The version number is irrelevant as long as the first number is 3.
3. Scroll to the bottom of the page to "Files" and select the appropriate version for your operating system. For example, I am using a 64bit Windows OS I would click on "Windows x86-64 executable installer". Click on this to download the installer. Once it is downloaded run the installer
4. On the installer, click "Customize installation"
5. On the next page ensure every box is checked
6. On the next page ensure the following boxes are checked: "Associate files with Python", "Create shortcuts for installed applications", "Add Python to environment variables" and "Precompile standard library". Once this is done click "Install"

Once you have successfully installed QtCreator and Python3 you must install the following libraries using the "pip" command. This is done through the command window, open the command window and type, for example: "pip install PyQt5", this will install the latest version of PyQt5. Follow this process for each of the libraries listed below.

- PyQt5
- pyqtgraph
- numpy
- sip

## 3.2 Basic Functionality

This section outlines the functionality of the GUI. To switch pages simply click on the name of the page in the list on the right hand side of the GUI. The following sections outline the functionality of the pushbuttons on each of the two pages.

### 3.2.1 Home

- **Start:** Initializes communications between the Base Station and Raspberry Pi
- **Finish:** Closes the GUI

### 3.2.2 Controller

- **Update Axis:** Update the joystick Yaw, Pitch, Roll and Thrust inputs
- **Update Host:** Update the Host PC Name
- **Update Port:** Update the port number for the socket
- **Manual Control:** Initialize the Joystick to send manual control inputs
- **Update Connection:** Updates the Host and Port at the same time, upon completing this a new connection will be established using the new information

To see which definition is called when each of these buttons are clicked see the GUI code in Appendix A.1. How the Joystick initialization is coded can be viewed in Appendix A.2.

## 3.3 Additional Resources

If the user would like to add any additional functionality many excellent online resources exist to aid them through the process. Below are some of the best that were used extensively when developing the GUI. They are broken down into QtCreator resources, PyQt5 Resources and Library resources.

### 3.3.1 QtCreator Resources

- The best resource for QtDesigner is the one provided by Qt. This can be found at <http://doc.qt.io/qt-5/qt designer-manual.html>

### 3.3.2 PyQt5 Resources

- A very nice video series describing many different aspects of PyQt is provided by sentdex on YouTube. The tutorial is based on PyQt4 but the principal is still valid, the only thing to remember is that when they use the "QtGui" class in PyQt4 we use "QtWidgets" in PyQt5. To find these videos go to YouTube and type in "sentdex PyQt".
- The reference guide for PyQt5 can be found at <http://pyqt.sourceforge.net/Docs/PyQt5/>

### 3.3.3 Library and general Python Resources

- For additional information regarding pyqtgraph (the library that allows for live plotting) visit <http://www.pyqtgraph.org/documentation/>
- For additional information regarding anything else you're interested in for Python visit <https://docs.python.org/3/library/index.html>.



# A GUI

## A.1 GUI Code

Listing 1: GUI.py

```
import sys
from PyQt5 import QtCore, QtGui, uic, QtWidgets
import numpy as np
import time
import struct
import socket
from PS4_Controller import PS4Controller as PS4
import pyqtgraph as pg
import pyqtgraph.exporters

qtCreatorFile = "GUI.ui" # Enter QtDesigner file here.
Ui_MainWindow, QtBaseClass = uic.loadUiType(qtCreatorFile)

class GUI(QtWidgets.QMainWindow, Ui_MainWindow, QtWidgets.QMenu):
    def __init__(self):
        super(GUI, self).__init__()
        #Qt initialization
        QtWidgets.QMainWindow.__init__(self)
        Ui_MainWindow.__init__(self)
        self.page = QtWidgets.QStackedWidget()
        self.setCentralWidget(self.page)
        self.setupUi(self)
        self.setWindowTitle("Drone")
        self.setWindowIcon(QtGui.QIcon('smu.png'))

        #Networking
        self.getHost = socket.gethostname()
        self.staticPort = '1247'

        #Main Page buttons
        self.start.clicked.connect(self.connection)
        self.end.clicked.connect(self.stop)

        #Listing widget, allows for the user to select a certain page
        self.list.insertItem(0, 'Home')
        self.list.insertItem(1, 'Controller')
        self.list.currentRowChanged.connect(self.display) #Changes widget index to appropriate page

        #Controller Page
        self.axisVal.setText('1_2_3_4')
        self.hostVal.setText(self.getHost)
        self.portVal.setText(self.staticPort)
        self.axisMenu.clicked.connect(self.axisSettings) #When "Update Axis" is clicked call definition axisSettings
        self.hostMenu.clicked.connect(self.hostSettings) #When "Update host" is clicked call definition hostSettings
        self.portMenu.clicked.connect(self.portSettings) #When "Update Port" is clicked call definition portSettings
        self.updateConnect.clicked.connect(self.updateConnection) #When "Update Connection" is clicked call definition updateConnect
        self.connectPS4.clicked.connect(self.connectController) #When "Manual Control" is clicked call definition connectController

        #Live plotting Initializations
        self.initplt()
        self.plotcurve = pg.PlotDataItem()
        self.plotwidget.addItem(self.plotcurve)
        self.t = 0
        self.update1()
        self.timer = pg.QtCore.QTimer()
        self.timer.timeout.connect(self.move) # Connects a timer to the "move" definition that allows for live plotting
        self.timer.start(1000) # Poll for updates of new data ever 1000miliseconds (1 second)

    def stop(self):
        sys.exit(app.exec_())

    def connection(self):
        s = socket.socket()
        host = self.getHost
        port = int(self.staticPort)
        status = s.connect_ex((host, port)) #Returns 0 if connect is successful, returns errno if not
        if status: # Status = errno
            self.thisworks.setText("Connection_Unsuccessful")
            self.connectionStat.setText("Communications_have_not_been_established")
        else: # Status = 0
            print(status)
            self.thisworks.setText("Connection_Successful")
            self.connectionStat.setText("Communications_are_active")

    def axisSettings(self):
        cont = PS4()
        #Input boxes when "Update Axis" is clicked
        text, ok = QtWidgets.QInputDialog.getText(self, 'Axis_Value[0]', 'No_Spaces')
        text1, ok = QtWidgets.QInputDialog.getText(self, 'Axis_Value[1]', 'No_Spaces')
```

```

text2, ok = QtWidgets.QInputDialog.getText(self, 'Axis_Value[2]', 'No_Spaces')
text3, ok = QtWidgets.QInputDialog.getText(self, 'Axis_Value[3]', 'No_Spaces')
axis = [int(text), int(text1), int(text2), int(text3)] # Make an array of the values from the input dialogs
self.axisVal.setText(str(axis))
cont.axis_order = axis # Set the axis order for the controller equal to the new settings

def display(self,i):
self.home.setCurrentIndex(i)

def hostSettings(self):
#Input box when "Update Host" is clicked
text, ok = QtWidgets.QInputDialog.getText(self, 'Host', 'Host_name_or_IP_address')
newHost = str(text)
if newHost == '':
self.hostVal.setText(self.getHost)
else:
self.hostVal.setText(newHost)
return newHost

def portSettings(self):
#Input box when "Update Port" is clicked
text, ok = QtWidgets.QInputDialog.getText(self, 'Port', 'Port_number')
if ok:
print('success')
newPort = str(text)
if newPort == '':
self.portVal.setText(self.staticPort)
else:
self.portVal.setText(newPort)
return int(newPort)

def connectController(self):
new = PS4()
cont.axis_order = self.axisSettings()
print(str(cont.axis_order))
new.listen() #Accept data from the manual controller, calls the listen definition from PS4Controller.py

def updateConnection(self):
host1 = self.hostSettings()
port1 = self.portSettings()
s = socket.socket()
status = s.connect_ex((host1,port1)) #Returns 0 if connect is successful, returns errno if not

if status: #status = errno
self.connectionStat.setText("Update_and_Connection_Unsuccessful")
self.thisworks.setText("Update_and_Connection_Unsuccessful")
else: #status = 0
self.connectionStat.setText("Update_and_Connection_Successful")
self.thisworks.setText("Update_and_Connection_Successful")

def liveData(self):
graph.data = open('test.txt', 'r').read() # Open the text file to read in data
lines = graph.data.split('\n') # Read in data from different lines
xs = [] #Empty list
ys = [] #Empty List
for line in lines:
if len(line)>1:
x, y = line.split('_',') #Read in data in the form of (x ,y)
xs.append(int(x))
ys.append(int(y))
return xs,ys

def initplt(self):
self.plotwidget = pg.PlotWidget() #Initate the plotting widget field
self.mplvl.addWidget(self.plotwidget) #Set the plotting widget field to populate the QVBoxLayout widget field
self.plotwidget.setLabel('left', 'Altitude_[m]') # Y-Axis name
self.plotwidget.setLabel('bottom', 'Time[s]') #X-Axis name
self.show()

def update1(self):
#read in the data from the liveData definition in the form of two separate lists.
#list1 = x-values, list2 = y-values
list1, list2 = self.liveData()
self.plotcurve.setData(list1, list2) # Plot the data

def move(self):
self.t+=1 #Move the data 1 spot to the right
self.update1() # Call update1 definition to get the new data

if __name__ == '__main__':
app = QtWidgets.QApplication(sys.argv)
main = GUI()
main.show()
QtWidgets.QApplication.processEvents()
sys.exit(app.exec_())

```

## A.2 Joystick Code

Listing 2: PS4Controller.py

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
# -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
#
# This file presents an interface for interacting with the Playstation 4 Controller
# in Python. Simply plug your PS4 controller into your computer using USB and run this
# script!
#
# NOTE: I assume in this script that the only joystick plugged in is the PS4 controller.
#       if this is not the case, you will need to change the class accordingly.
#
# Copyright      2015 Clay L. McLeod <clay.l.mcleod@gmail.com>
#
# Distributed under terms of the MIT license.

#TODO:
#       rewrite connection for new server
#       test

# import os
# import pprint
import pygame
import socket
import struct
import sys

if sys.version_info[0] < 3:
    raise Exception('Lucas', 'not_compatible_with_Python_version_2')

class PS4Controller(object):
    """Class representing the PS4 controller. Pretty straightforward functionality."""

    controller = None
    axis_data = None
    button_data = None
    hat_data = None

    def __init__(self, axis_order=[1, 2, 3, 4], hostname='raspberrypi', port=2222, limits = [10, 10, 1, 10]):
        """Initialize the joystick components"""

        pygame.init()
        pygame.joystick.init()
        self.controller = pygame.joystick.Joystick(0)
        self.controller.init()
        self.hostname = hostname
        self.port = port
        self.limits = limits
        if isinstance(axis_order, list):
            self.axis_order = axis_order # For changing how controller axes are bound
        else:
            raise Exception(TypeError, 'axis_order_must_be_list.')

    def update_axes(self, axis_order):
        self.axis_order = axis_order

    def listen(self):
        """Listen for events to happen"""

        if not self.axis_data:
            self.axis_data = {0: float(0),
                              1: float(0),
                              2: float(0),
                              3: float(0),
                              4: float(-1),
                              5: float(-1)} # Added explicit number of axes to avoid waiting for input

        if not self.button_data:
            self.button_data = {}
        for i in range(self.controller.get_numbuttons()):
            self.button_data[i] = False

        if not self.hat_data:
            self.hat_data = {}
        for i in range(self.controller.get_numhats()):
            self.hat_data[i] = (0, 0)

        # host = '192.168.2.19' #ip of Server (PI)
        host = socket.gethostbyname(self.hostname) # if fails install samba on pi and reboot

        while True:
            for event in pygame.event.get():
                if event.type == pygame.JOYAXISMOTION:
                    self.axis_data[event.axis] = round(event.value, 2)
                elif event.type == pygame.JOYBUTTONDOWN:
                    self.button_data[event.button] = True
```

```

elif event.type == pygame.JOYBUTTONUP:
self.button_data[event.button] = False
elif event.type == pygame.JOYHATMOTION:
self.hat_data[event.hat] = event.value

# Insert your code on what you would like to happen for each event here!
# In the current setup, I have the state simply printing out to the screen.

# Defining Variables to send through the socket to the RPi, need to be strings

# axis_data=str(self.axis_data)
# button_data = str(self.button_data)
# hat_data = str(self.hat_data)

# Sending Data over a socket to the RPi
# print(str(self.axis_data))
# Isolate desired Axes

axes_data = [self.axis_data[self.axis_order[0]] * self.limits[0],
self.axis_data[self.axis_order[1]] * self.limits[1],
self.axis_data[self.axis_order[2]] * self.limits[2],
self.axis_data[self.axis_order[3]] * self.limits[3]]
byte_data = [] # To hold the axes data serialized to bytes
for axis in axes_data:
byte_data.append(struct.pack("f", axis)) # F for float

# Send the control input data in byte form over the to be sent over the socket
xmission_bytes = bytes().join(byte_data)
connection = socket.socket()
connection.connect((host, self.port)) # Make the connection to the RPi
connection.send(xmission_bytes) # sending the controller data over the port
connection.close() # Whenever no control inputs, close socket
# print(xmission_bytes)

# os.system('cls ')
# break
# s.send(button_data)
# s.send(hat_data)
# s.close()

if __name__ == "__main__":
ps4 = PS4Controller()
# ps4.init()
ps4.listen()

```

## B Server Code

```

import socketserver
import sys
import arduino
import threading
import queue
from pickle import dumps as serialize
from subprocess import check_output

class SerialRequestHandler(threading.Thread):
    """
    Thread object for handling the serial bus connection. When the arduino controller writes to the serial bus to
    signal that it is ready for control data, the thread clears the serial bus and then writes the current state from
    the queue it was initialized with.

    :param stateq: Queue object for holding control state. The queue should be of size one. It is being used for
    its multi-thread implementation over its properties as a queue.
    """
    def __init__(self, stateq):
        """
        Initialize thread object.
        """
        super(self.__class__, self).__init__()
        self.stateq = stateq

    def run(self):
        """
        Creates object for handling the serial bus to the arduino and then writes to it when signaled to.
        """
        sbus = arduino.Arduino_Controller(9600)
        while True:
            ready = sbus.ready()
            if ready:
                sbus.serial_bus.read(ready)
                sbus.serial_bus.write(self.stateq.get())

class QuadControlHandler(socketserver.BaseRequestHandler):
    """
    Request handler that puts 16 received bytes into the queue for the SerialRequestHandler.

    :param request: Inherited from BaseRequestHandler
    """

```

```

:param client_address: Inherited from BaseRequestHandler
:param server: Inherited from BaseRequestHandler
:param stateq: Threading queue object of size 1.
"""
def __init__(self, request, client_address, server, stateq):
    """
    Initialize request handler.
    """
    self.stateq = stateq
    super(self.__class__, self).__init__(request, client_address, server)
    return

def handle(self):
    """
    Handles connection. If queue is full it empties it, then reads the received bytestring to the queue.
    """
    if self.stateq.full():
        self.stateq.get() #Queue has size of 1, if full clear for new state
    recv = self.request.recv(16)
    self.stateq.put(recv)
    print('Received:_' + str(recv))
    return

class QuadControlServer(socketserver.UDPServer):
    """
    Handles UDP datagrams containing 16 Bytes
    """
    :param server_address: Inherited from UDPServer, a tuple of (Address, Port)
    :param RequestHandlerClass: Should be QuadControlHandler
    """
    def __init__(self, server_address, RequestHandlerClass):
        """
        Initialize controller.
        """
        super(self.__class__, self).__init__(server_address, RequestHandlerClass)
        self.stateq = queue.Queue(1)
        return

    def serve_forever(self, poll_interval=0.5):
        """
        Overridden from UDPServer, added creating of SerialRequestHandler and start of that thread.
        """
        thread = SerialRequestHandler(self.stateq)
        thread.start()
        super(self.__class__, self).serve_forever(poll_interval)
        return

    def finish_request(self, request, client_address):
        """
        Overridden from UDPServer. Adds passing queue to the request handler.
        """
        self.RequestHandlerClass(request, client_address, self, self.stateq)

class FeedbackCommHandler(socketserver.BaseRequestHandler):
    """
    Handles data requests from the GUI.
    """
    def __init__(self, request, client_address, server, data):
        """
        Overridden to bring datadictionary to request handler.
        """
        self.DataDictionary = data
        super(self.__class__, self).__init__(request, client_address, server)

    def handle(self):
        """
        Pickles datadictionary and sends it as a response.
        """
        byte_string = serialize(self.DataDictionary)
        self.request.send_all(byte_string)

class CommunicationServer(socketserver.TCPServer):
    """
    Server inherited from TCPServer, handles request for data as well as acquiring data. Periodically runs functions
    from a list of DataFunctions and appends their returned values/object to a list of data.
    """
    :param server_address: Inherited from UDPServer, a tuple of (Address, Port)
    :param RequestHandlerClass: Should be FeedbackComHandler
    :param DataFuntions: A list of functions that acquire data.
    """
    def __init__(self, server_address, RequestHandlerClass, DataFuntions):
        """
        Initializes server.
        """
        self.DataFunctions = DataFuntions
        self.DataDictionary = {}
        for x in self.DataFunctions:
            self.DataDictionary[x[0]] = {'name': x[0],
                                         'function': x[1],
                                         'data': []}
        super(self.__class__, self).__init__(server_address, RequestHandlerClass)

```

```

def service_actions(self):
    """
    Iterates through list of functions in self.DataFunctions and records them in the corresponding dictionary within
    self.DataDictionary.
    """
    for x in self.DataDictionary:
        x['data'].append(x['function']())

def finish_request(self, request, client_address):
    """
    Overriden from TCPServer. Adds passing data to the request handler.
    """
    self.RequestHandlerClass(request, client_address, self, self.DataDictionary)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    if sys.version_info[0] < 3:
        raise Exception('Version_Error', 'Not_compatible_with_Python_version_2')

    HOST = check_output(['hostname', '-I']).strip()
    CONTROLPORT = 2222
    COMMSPORT = 4444

    test_serv = QuadControlServer((HOST, CONTROLPORT), QuadControlHandler)
    test_serv.serve_forever()

```