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# Parameter Estimation and Control of Multirotors Using Integral Concurrent Learning

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# Outlines

- Motivation
- Problem Formulation
- Controller Design
- Stability Analysis
- Simulation and Experiments
- Conclusion

# Motivation – from Walmart's drone delivery



**Walmart launches  
drone delivery service in U.S.**

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# Motivation – from movies Angel Has Fallen



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# Motivation

- Knowledge of the geometric and inertia parameters is essential to achieving good control performance.
- The payload or sensors attaching to multirotors may change the geometric and inertia parameters.
- Some geometric and inertia parameters like moment of inertia can not be measured through instrument.
- Existing adaptive control method can only guarantee the stability of multirotors system, can not ensure the parameters converge.

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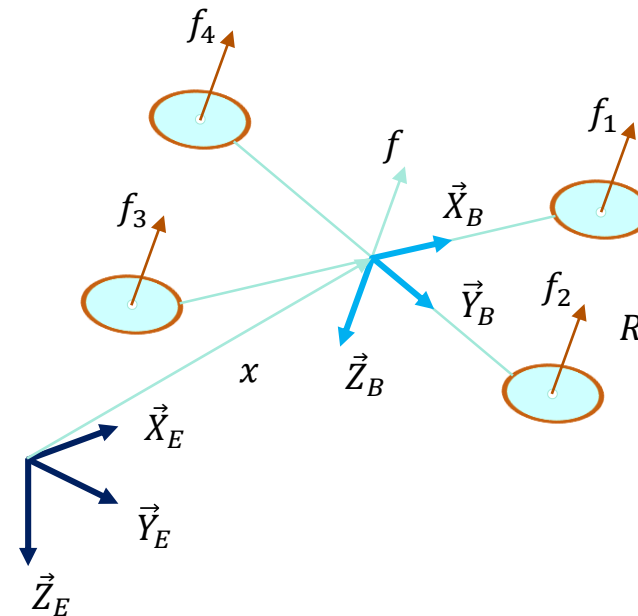
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# Problem Formulation - Definition of Symbols

| Symbol   | Description   |
|----------|---|
| $x$      | Position of the multirotor                                      |
| $v$      | Velocity of the multirotor                                      |
| $R$      | Rotation matrix from the body-fixed frame to the inertial frame |
| $\Omega$ | Angular velocity in the body-fixed frame                        |
| $f$      | Net thrust control input  |
| $M$      | Moment control input  |
| $m$      | Mass of the multirotor  |
| $J$      | Moment of inertia of the multirotor                             |



Body-fixed frame :  $\{\vec{X}_B, \vec{Y}_B, \vec{Z}_B\}$

Inertial frame:  $\{\vec{X}_E, \vec{Y}_E, \vec{Z}_E\}$

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# Problem Formulation - Dynamics of the Multirotor

- The multirotor is described by both translational and rotational dynamics.
- The translational dynamics considers forces such as the effects of gravity, thrusts, and the external force.
- The rotational dynamics takes the moment of the control input, rotational speed, and moment of inertia into account.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{x} &= v \\
 m\dot{v} &= mg e_3 - f R e_3 \\
 \dot{R} &= R \hat{\Omega} \\
 J\dot{\Omega} + \Omega \times J\Omega &= M
 \end{aligned}
 \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Translational dynamics} \\ \\ \text{Rotational dynamics} \end{array}$$

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} J_{xx} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & J_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & J_{zz} \end{bmatrix}$$

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# Problem Formulation – Tracking Errors and Estimate Errors

- Position and velocity tracking errors

$$e_x \triangleq x - x_d$$

$$e_v \triangleq v - v_d$$

- Attitude error function on SO(3) based on [Geometric Tracking Control](#)

$$\Psi(R, R_d) \triangleq \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[I - R_d^T R]$$

- Attitude tracking error and the angular velocity tracking error

$$e_R \triangleq \frac{1}{2} (R_d^T R - R^T R_d)^v$$

$$e_\Omega \triangleq \Omega - R^T R_d \Omega_d$$

- Estimate error of mass

$$\tilde{\theta}_m \triangleq \theta_m - \hat{\theta}_m, \theta_m = m \text{ (mass of the multirotor)}$$

- Estimate error of moment of inertia

$$\tilde{\theta}_{diag} \triangleq \theta_{diag} - \hat{\theta}_{diag}, \theta_{diag} = [J_{xx} \quad J_{yy} \quad J_{zz}]^T \text{ (moment of inertia of the multirotor)}$$



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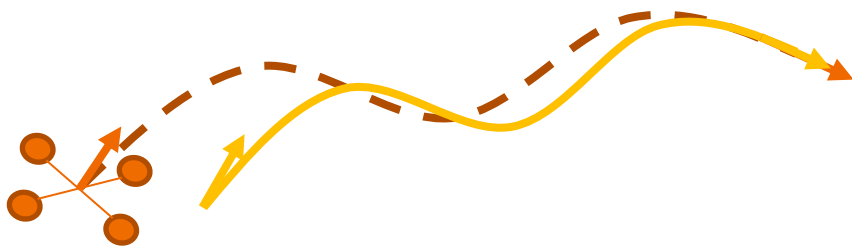
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# Problem Formulation – Control Objectives

- Track a desired 3D trajectory
- Track a desired yaw angle
- Estimate the mass of the multirotor
- Estimate the moment of inertia of the multirotor

$$\begin{cases} e_x & \rightarrow 0 \\ e_v & \rightarrow 0 \\ e_R & \rightarrow 0 \\ e_\Omega & \rightarrow 0 \\ \tilde{\theta}_m & \rightarrow 0 \\ \tilde{\theta}_{diag} & \rightarrow 0 \end{cases} \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty$$



- 3D position
- 3D trajectory
- yaw angle
- desired yaw angle

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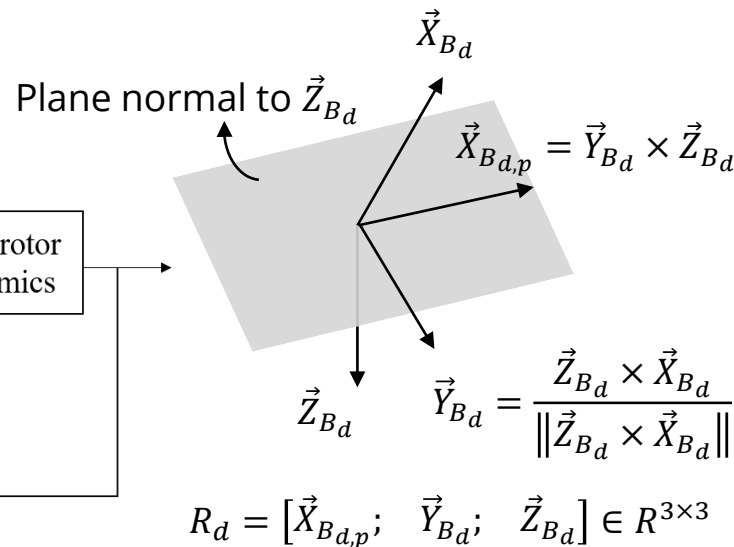
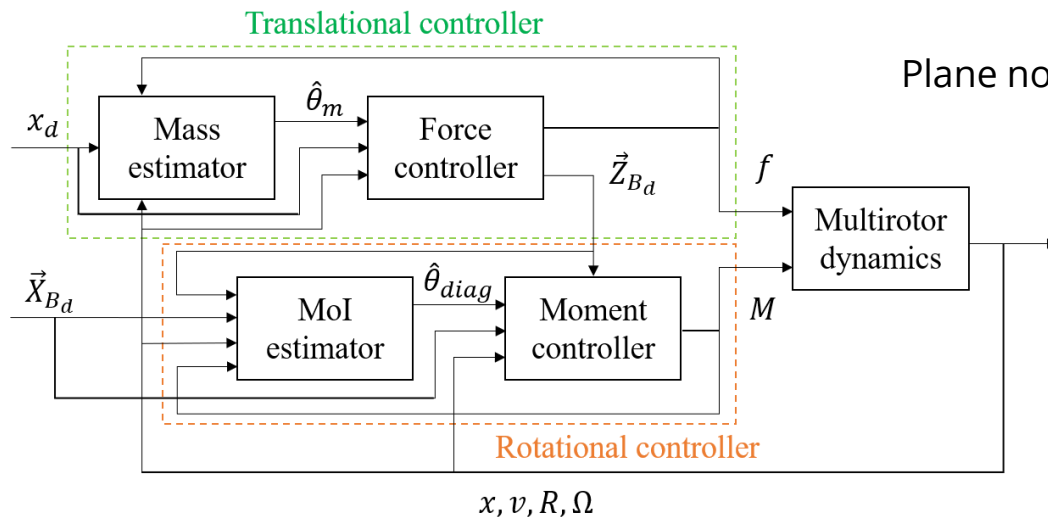
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# Controller Design – Control Architecture



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# Controller Design – Translational Controller

- Translational controller

$$\underline{f} = (\underline{k_x e_x} + \underline{k_v e_v} + Y_m \hat{\theta}_m) \cdot Re_3, \quad Y_m = \begin{bmatrix} -\ddot{x}_{d_1} \\ -\ddot{x}_{d_2} \\ g - \ddot{x}_{d_3} \end{bmatrix} \text{ is a regression matrix}$$

$= \text{feedback term} + \text{adaptive term}$

- Integral CL-based adaptive control update law  $\dot{\hat{\theta}}_m$

$$\dot{\hat{\theta}}_m = \Gamma_m Y_m^T (e_v + C_1 e_x) + k_m^{cl} \Gamma_m \sum_{j=1}^{N_m} \left( y_m^{cl}(t_j) \right)^T (F(t_j) - y_m^{cl}(t_j) \hat{\theta}_m)$$

$= \text{adaptive term} + \text{ICL-based term}$

$$y_m^{cl}(t_j) \triangleq \begin{cases} 0_{n \times 1} & t \in [0, \Delta t] \\ \int_{t-\Delta t}^t Y_m^{cl}(\tau) d\tau & t > \Delta t \end{cases}, \quad F(t_j) \triangleq \begin{cases} 0_{n \times 1} & t \in [0, \Delta t] \\ \int_{t-\Delta t}^t f Re_3(\tau) d\tau & t > \Delta t \end{cases}$$

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# Controller Design – Translational Controller

- $Y_m^{cl}$  defined as follows contains acceleration terms which is not implementable

$$fRe_3 = mge_3 - m\dot{v} = Y_m^{cl}\theta_m, \quad Y_m^{cl} = \begin{bmatrix} -\ddot{x}_1 \\ -\ddot{x}_2 \\ g - \ddot{x}_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- By integrating  $Y_m^{cl}$  to be  $y_m^{cl}$  as defined in last page,  $y_m^{cl}$  becomes implementable
- Integrating both sides of the translational dynamics  $fRe_3 = Y_m^{cl}\theta_m$  yields

$$\int_{t-\Delta t}^t fRe_3(\tau) d\tau = \int_{t-\Delta t}^t Y_m^{cl}(\tau)\theta_m d\tau \Rightarrow \int \mathbf{fRe}_3(\tau) \Big|_{\tau=t} - \int \mathbf{fRe}_3(\tau) \Big|_{\tau=t-\Delta t} = y_m^{cl}\theta_m$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\hat{\theta}}_m &= \Gamma_m Y_m^T(e_v + C_1 e_x) + k_m^{cl} \Gamma_m \sum_{j=1}^{N_m} \left( y_m^{cl}(t_j) \right)^T \left( \mathbf{F}(t_j) - y_m^{cl}(t_j) \hat{\theta}_m \right) \\ &= \Gamma_m Y_m^T(e_v + C_1 e_x) + k_m^{cl} \Gamma_m \sum_{j=1}^{N_m} \left( y_m^{cl}(t_j) \right)^T y_m^{cl}(t_j) \tilde{\theta}_m \end{aligned}$$

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# Controller Design – Rotational Controller

- Rotational controller

$$M = \underbrace{-k_R e_R - k_\Omega e_\Omega}_{\text{feedback term}} - \underbrace{Y_{diag} \hat{\theta}_{diag}}_{\text{adaptive term}}, \quad Y_{diag} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\Omega}_1 & \Omega_2 \cdot \Omega_3 & -\Omega_2 \cdot \Omega_3 \\ -\Omega_1 \cdot \Omega_3 & \bar{\Omega}_2 & \Omega_1 \cdot \Omega_3 \\ \Omega_1 \cdot \Omega_2 & -\Omega_1 \cdot \Omega_2 & \bar{\Omega}_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Integral CL-based adaptive control update law  $\hat{\theta}_{diag}$

$$\hat{\theta}_{diag} = \underbrace{\Gamma_{diag} Y_{diag}^T (e_\Omega + C_2 e_R)}_{\text{adaptive term}} + \underbrace{k_{diag}^{cl} \Gamma_{diag} \sum_{j=1}^N \left( y_{diag}^{cl}(t_j) \right)^T (\bar{M}(t_j) - y_{diag}^{cl}(t_j) \hat{\theta}_{diag})}_{\text{ICL-based term}}$$

$$y_{diag}^{cl}(t_j) \triangleq \begin{cases} 0_{n \times m} & t \in [0, \Delta t] \\ \int_{t-\Delta t}^t Y_{diag}^{cl}(\tau) d\tau & t > \Delta t \end{cases}, \quad \bar{M}(t_j) \triangleq \begin{cases} 0_{n \times m} & t \in [0, \Delta t] \\ \int_{t-\Delta t}^t M(\tau) d\tau & t > \Delta t \end{cases}$$

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# Controller Design – Rotational Controller

- $Y_{diag}^{cl}$  defined as follows contains angular acceleration which is not implementable

$$M = J\dot{\Omega} + \Omega \times J\Omega = Y_{diag}^{cl}\theta_{diag}, \quad Y_{diag}^{cl} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\Omega}_1 & -\Omega_2 \cdot \Omega_3 & \Omega_2 \cdot \Omega_3 \\ \Omega_1 \cdot \Omega_3 & \dot{\Omega}_2 & -\Omega_1 \cdot \Omega_3 \\ -\Omega_1 \cdot \Omega_2 & \Omega_1 \cdot \Omega_2 & \dot{\Omega}_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- By integrating  $Y_{diag}^{cl}$  to be  $y_{diag}^{cl}$  as defined in last page,  $y_m^{cl}$  becomes implementable
- Integrating both sides of the translational dynamics  $M = Y_{diag}^{cl}\theta_{diag}$  yields

$$\int_{t-\Delta t}^t M(\tau) d\tau = \int_{t-\Delta t}^t Y_{diag}^{cl}(\tau)\theta_{diag} d\tau \Rightarrow \int \mathbf{M}(\tau) \Big|_{\tau=t} - \int \mathbf{M}(\tau) \Big|_{\tau=t-\Delta t} = y_{diag}^{cl}\theta_{diag}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\hat{\theta}}_{diag} &= \Gamma_{diag} Y_{diag}^T (e_{\Omega} + C_2 e_R) + k_{diag}^{cl} \Gamma_{diag} \sum_{j=1}^N \left( y_{diag}^{cl}(t_j) \right)^T \left( \bar{\mathbf{M}}(\mathbf{t}_j) - y_{diag}^{cl}(t_j) \hat{\theta}_{diag} \right) \\ &= \Gamma_{diag} Y_{diag}^T (e_{\Omega} + C_2 e_R) + k_{diag}^{cl} \Gamma_{diag} \sum_{j=1}^N \left( y_{diag}^{cl}(t_j) \right)^T y_{diag}^{cl}(t_j) \tilde{\theta}_{diag} \end{aligned}$$

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# Stability Analysis – Closed-Loop Error Systems

- Taking the time derivative of error dynamics  $e_x, e_v$  defined in [Problem Formulation](#)

$$\dot{e}_x = \dot{e}_v$$

$$m\dot{e}_v = mge_3 - fRe_3 - m\ddot{x}_d$$

$$= Y_m\theta_m - fRe_3$$

$$= -k_x e_x - k_v e_v + Y_m \tilde{\theta}_m - X \quad , X = \frac{f}{e_3^T R_d^T R e_3} \left( (e_3^T R_d^T R e_3) R e_3 - R_d e_3 \right)$$

- Taking the time derivative of error dynamics  $e_R, e_\Omega$  defined in [Problem Formulation](#)

$$\dot{e}_R = \frac{1}{2} (R_d^T R \hat{e}_\Omega + \hat{e}_\Omega R^T R_d)^v$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (tr[R^T R_d] I - R^T R_d) \equiv C(R_d^T R) e_\Omega$$

$$J\dot{e}_\Omega = J\dot{\Omega} + J(\hat{\Omega} R^T R_d \Omega_d - R^T R_d \dot{\Omega}_d)$$

$$= J\dot{\Omega} + J\bar{\Omega} = M + Y_{diag} \theta_{diag} = -k_R e_R - k_\Omega e_\Omega + Y_{diag} \tilde{\theta}_{diag}$$

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# Stability Analysis – Translational Dynamics

- Let Lyapunov function  $V_1$  defined as

$$V_1 = \frac{1}{2}k_x e_x^T e_x + \frac{1}{2}m e_v^T e_v + C_1 m e_x \cdot e_v + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\theta}_m^T \Gamma_m^{-1} \tilde{\theta}_m$$

- $V_1$  is P.D. and it can be lower and upper bounded by

$$z_1^T M_{11} z_1 + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\theta}_m^T \Gamma_m^{-1} \tilde{\theta}_m \leq V_1 \leq z_1^T M_{12} z_1 + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\theta}_m^T \Gamma_m^{-1} \tilde{\theta}_m$$

$$z_1 \triangleq [\|e_x\|, \|e_v\|]^T$$

$$M_{11} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} k_x & -C_1 m \\ -C_1 m & m \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_{12} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} k_x & C_1 m \\ C_1 m & m \end{bmatrix}$$

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# Stability Analysis – Translational Dynamics

- Taking the time derivative of  $V_1$  yields

$$\dot{V}_1 = k_x e_x \cdot \dot{e}_x + e_v \cdot m \dot{e}_v + C_1 m \dot{e}_x \cdot e_v + C_1 e_x \cdot m \dot{e}_v - \tilde{\theta}_m^T \Gamma_m^{-1} \dot{\tilde{\theta}}_m$$

- Substitute  $\dot{e}_x$  and  $m \dot{e}_v$  defined in [the previous page](#) into  $\dot{V}_1$

$$\dot{V}_1 \leq -z_1^T W_1 z_1 + z_1^T W_{12} z_2 - k_m^{cl} \tilde{\theta}_m^T \left( \sum_{j=1}^N \left( y_m^{cl}(t_j) \right)^T y_m^{cl}(t_j) \right) \tilde{\theta}_m$$

$$W_1 = \begin{bmatrix} k_x C_1 (1 - \alpha) & -\frac{1}{2} C_1 k_v (1 + \alpha) \\ -\frac{1}{2} C_1 k_v (1 + \alpha) & k_v (1 - \alpha) - C_1 m \end{bmatrix}, \quad W_{12} = \begin{bmatrix} k_x e_{v, \max} + C_1 B & 0 \\ B & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- $M_{11}$ ,  $M_{12}$ ,  $W_1$  in  $V_1$  and  $\dot{V}_1$  are positive-definite matrices if  $C_1$  satisfies

$$C_1 < \min \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{k_x}{m}}, \frac{k_v (1 - \alpha)}{m}, \frac{4 k_x k_v (1 - \alpha)^2}{k_v^2 (1 + \alpha)^2 + 4 m k_x (1 - \alpha)} \right\}$$

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# Stability Analysis – Rotational Dynamics

- Let Lyapunov function  $V_2$  defined as

$$V_2 = \frac{1}{2} e_\Omega \cdot J e_\Omega + k_R \Psi(R, R_d) + J C_2 e_R \cdot e_\Omega + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}_{diag}^T \Gamma_{diag}^{-1} \tilde{\theta}_{diag}$$

- $V_2$  is P.D. and it can be lower and upper bounded by

$$z_2^T M_{21} z_2 + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}_{diag}^T \Gamma_{diag}^{-1} \tilde{\theta}_{diag} \leq V_2 \leq z_2^T M_{22} z_2 + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}_{diag}^T \Gamma_{diag}^{-1} \tilde{\theta}_{diag}$$

$$z_2 \triangleq [\|e_R\|, \|e_\Omega\|]^T$$

$$M_{21} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} k_R & -C_2 \lambda_{\max}(J) \\ -C_2 \lambda_{\max}(J) & \lambda_{\min}(J) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_{22} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2k_R}{2 - \psi_2} & -C_2 \lambda_{\max}(J) \\ -C_2 \lambda_{\max}(J) & \lambda_{\min}(J) \end{bmatrix}$$

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# Stability Analysis – Rotational Dynamics

- Taking the time derivative of  $V_2$  yields

$$\dot{V}_2 = (e_\Omega + C_2 e_R) \cdot (J \dot{e}_\Omega) + k_R e_\Omega \cdot e_R + J C_2 \dot{e}_R \cdot e_\Omega - \tilde{\theta}_{diag}^T \Gamma_{diag}^{-1} \dot{\hat{\theta}}_{diag}$$

- Substitute  $\dot{e}_R$  and  $J \dot{e}_\Omega$  defined in [the previous page](#) into  $\dot{V}_2$

$$\dot{V}_2 \leq -z_2^T W_2 z_2 - k_{diag}^{cl} \tilde{\theta}_{diag}^T \left( \sum_{j=1}^N \left( y_{diag}^{cl}(t_j) \right)^T y_{diag}^{cl}(t_j) \right) \tilde{\theta}_{diag}$$

$$W_2 = \begin{bmatrix} C_2 k_R & -\frac{C_2 k_\Omega}{2} \\ -\frac{C_2 k_\Omega}{2} & k_\Omega - C_2 \lambda_{max}(J) \end{bmatrix}$$

- $M_{21}, M_{22}, W_2$  in  $V_2$  and  $\dot{V}_2$  are positive-definite matrices if  $C_2$  satisfies

$$C_2 < \min \left\{ \frac{k_\Omega}{\lambda_{max}(J)}, \frac{4k_\Omega k_R}{k_\Omega^2 + 4k_R \lambda_{max}(J)}, \sqrt{\frac{k_R \lambda_{min}(J)}{\lambda_{max}(J)^2}} \right\}$$

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# Stability Analysis – Overall System

- Let  $V = V_1 + V_2$  be a Lyapunov function for the system containing rotational and translational dynamics

$$\begin{aligned} V &= V_1 + V_2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} k_x e_x^T e_x + \frac{1}{2} m e_v^T e_v + C_1 m e_x \cdot e_v + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}_m^T \Gamma_m^{-1} \tilde{\theta}_m \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} e_\Omega \cdot J e_\Omega + k_R \Psi(R, R_d) + J C_2 e_R \cdot e_\Omega + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}_{diag}^T \Gamma_{diag}^{-1} \tilde{\theta}_{diag} \quad \dots \text{P.D.} \end{aligned}$$

- Taking the time derivative of  $V$  and substituting  $\dot{V}_1$  and  $\dot{V}_2$  yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V} = \dot{V}_1 + \dot{V}_2 &\leq -z_1^T W_1 z_1 + z_1^T W_{12} z_2 - k_m^{cl} \tilde{\theta}_m^T \left( \sum_{j=1}^N \left( y_m^{cl}(t_j) \right)^T y_m^{cl}(t_j) \right) \tilde{\theta}_m \\ &\quad - z_2^T W_2 z_2 - k_{diag}^{cl} \tilde{\theta}_{diag}^T \left( \sum_{j=1}^N \left( y_{diag}^{cl}(t_j) \right)^T y_{diag}^{cl}(t_j) \right) \tilde{\theta}_{diag} \quad \dots \text{N.D.} \\ &\quad , \text{ where } \lambda_{min}(W_2) > 4 \|W_{12}\|^2 / \lambda_{min}(W_1) \end{aligned}$$

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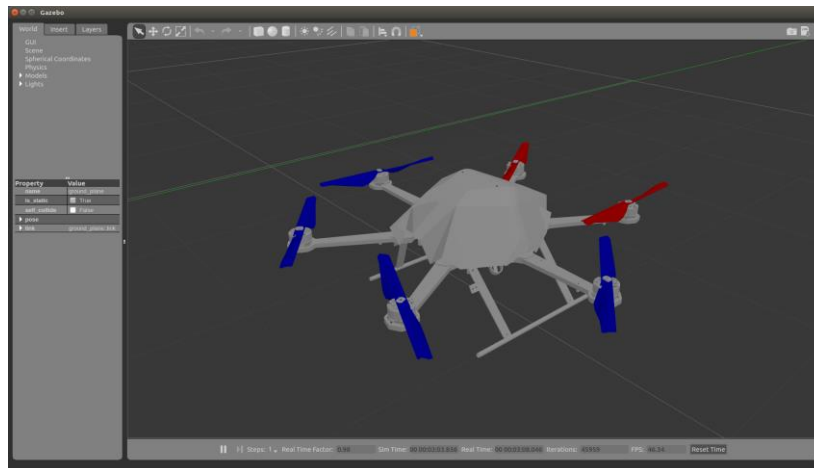
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# Simulation – Setup and Ground Truth

- A six-rotor multirotor was used as our model in ROS Gazebo
- The ground truth of moment of inertia  $J$  and  $m$  were unknown parameters to be estimated in the simulations, and were used for evaluating the estimate error but not for implementing the controller



| Parameter | Value   |
|-----------|---|
| $m$       | 1.568(kg)   |
| $J$       | $\begin{bmatrix} 0.035 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.046 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.0977 \end{bmatrix} (kg \cdot m^2)$ |
| $d$       | 0.215(m)  |

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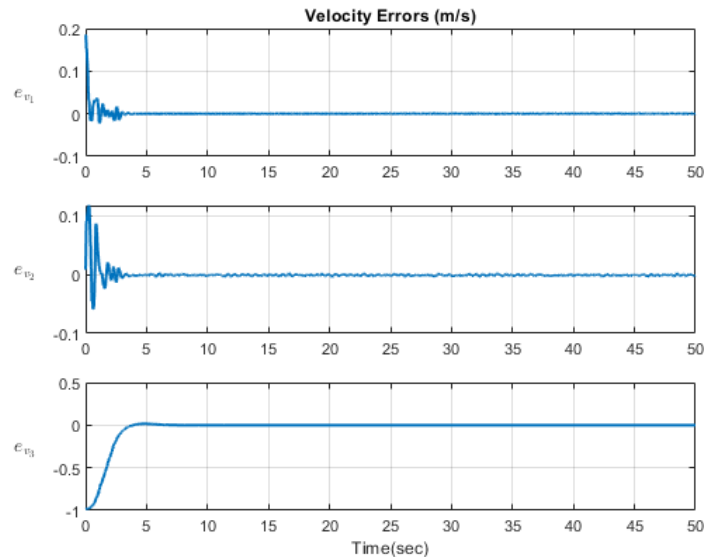
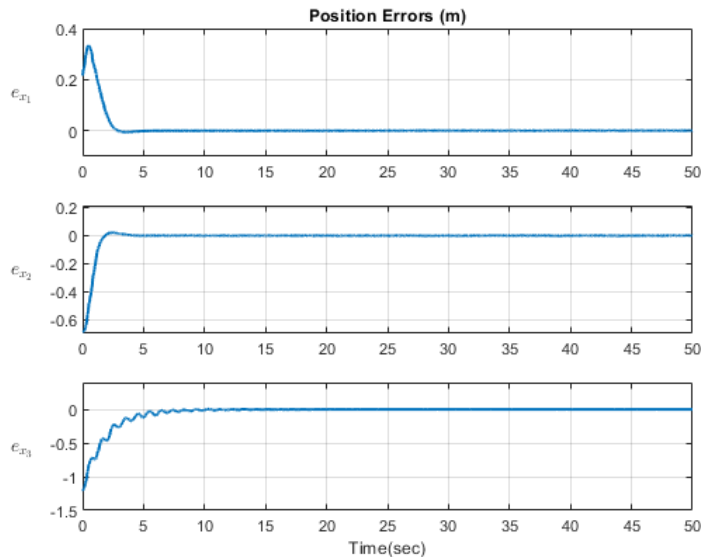
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# Simulation – Translational Error Tracking



- The tracking errors of the position and velocity converged asymptotically to zero
- The multirotor can track a desired 3D trajectory without the information of mass and moment of inertia

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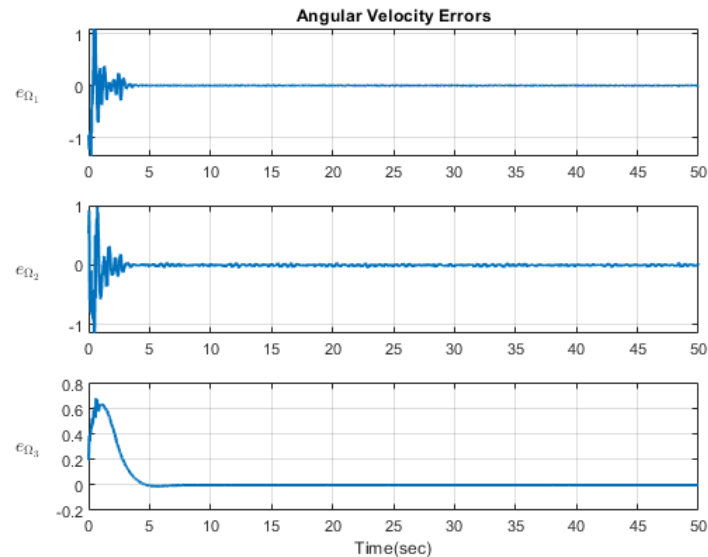
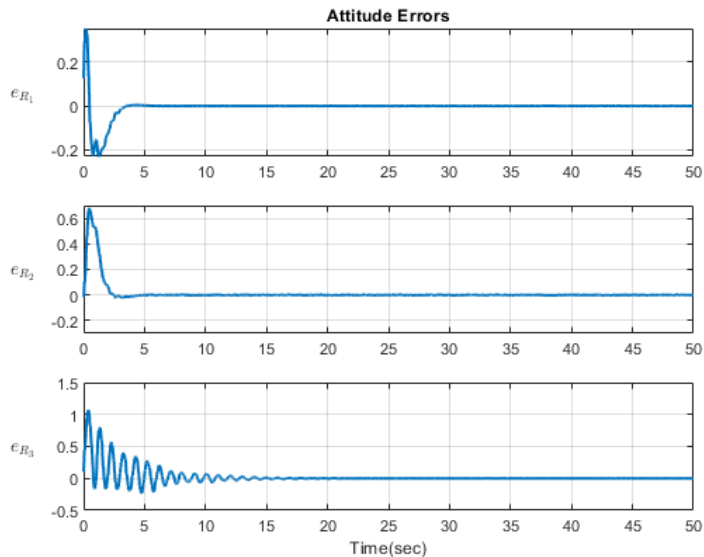
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# Simulation – Rotational Error Tracking



- The tracking errors of the attitude and angular velocity converged asymptotically to zero

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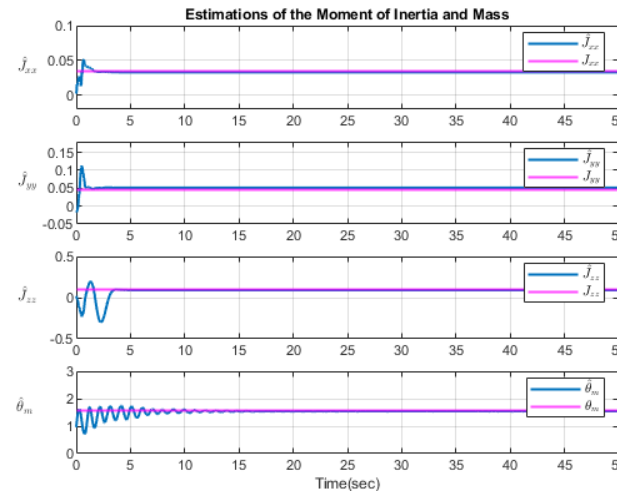
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# Simulation – Estimate Mass and Moment of Inertia

|                   | Estimation value  | Ground truth   |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Mass              | 1.534   | 1.568  |
| Moment of inertia | $\begin{bmatrix} 0.033 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.051 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.091 \end{bmatrix}$ | $\begin{bmatrix} 0.035 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.046 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.0977 \end{bmatrix}$ |

- The estimates of the moment of inertia and mass during flight
- The normalized estimate errors of the moment of inertia and mass were 7.9% and 1.5%, respectively



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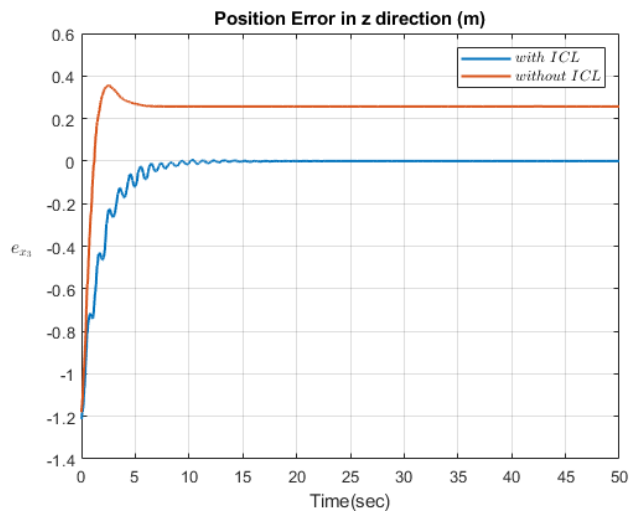
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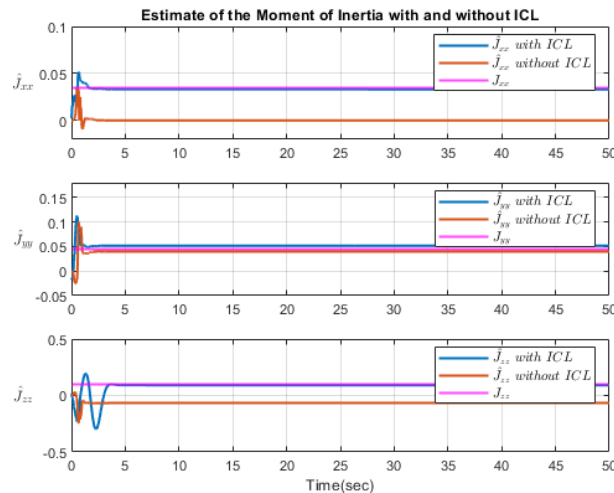
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# Simulation – Adaptive Control v.s. Adaptive ICL Control



- The figure above compares the controller performance without and with the ICL controller
- This demonstrates the importance and robustness of our developed controller



- The figure above compares the estimated parameters when using the adaptive controller and the developed ICL controller
- Asymptotic convergence of the estimate errors converged asymptotically when using the ICL controller

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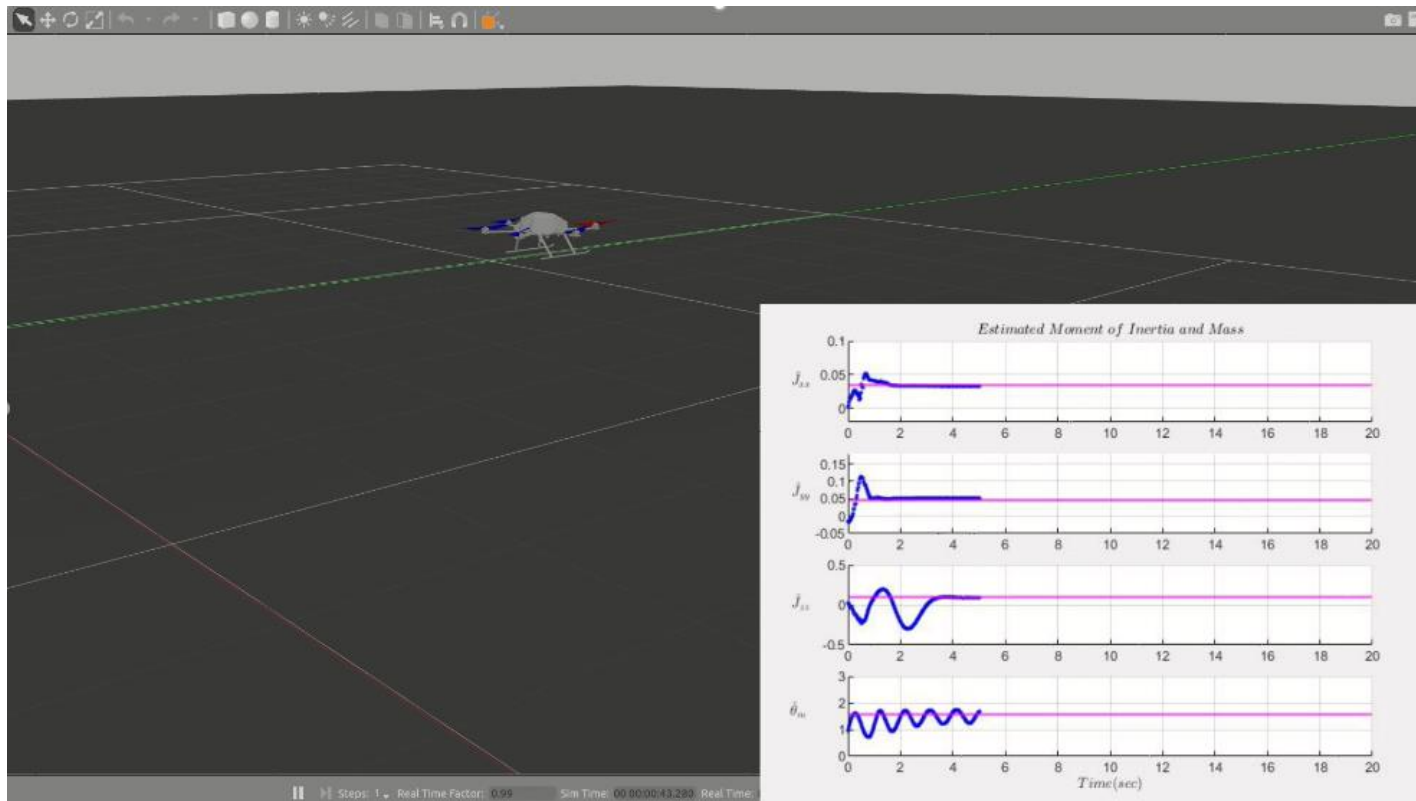
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# Simulation - Video



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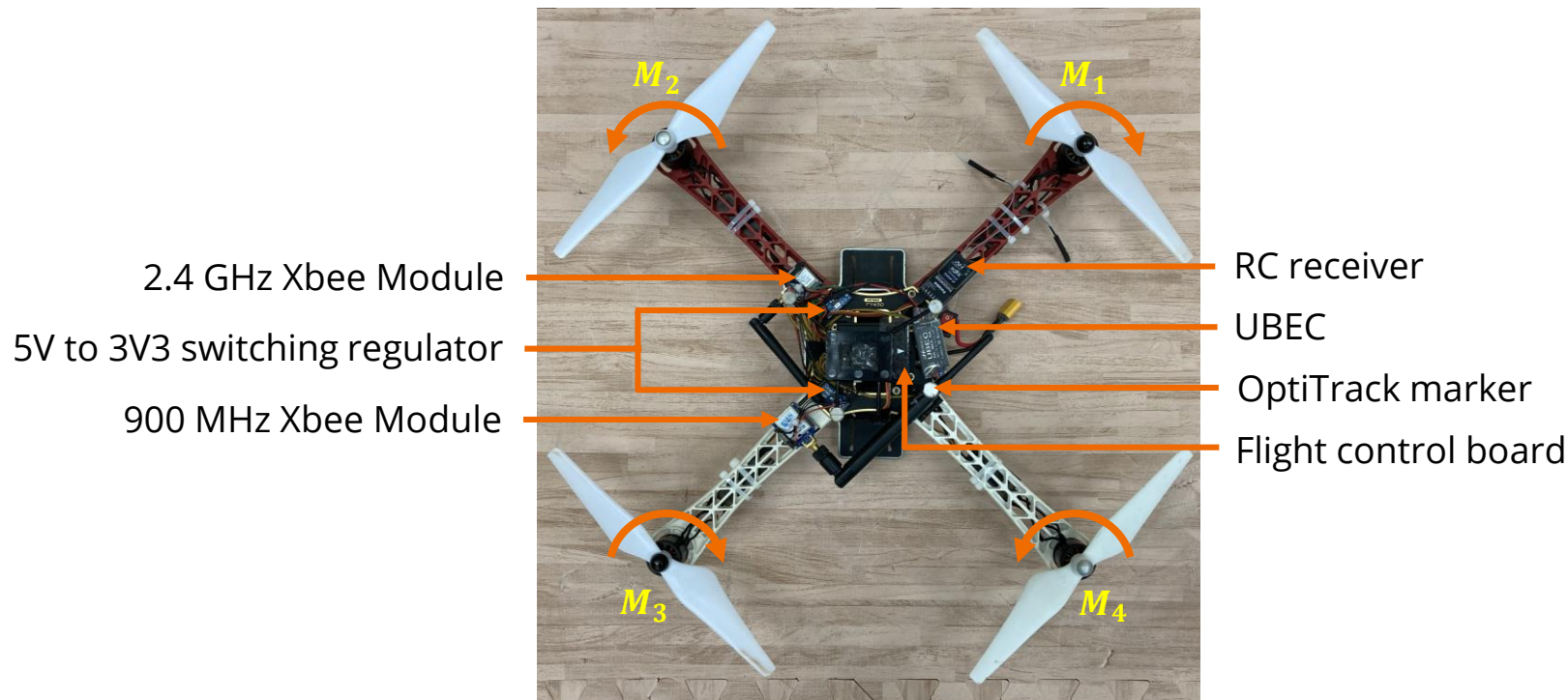
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Analysis

Simulation and  
Experiments

Conclusion

# Experiments – Hardware Architecture



Motivation

Problem  
Formulation

Controller  
Design

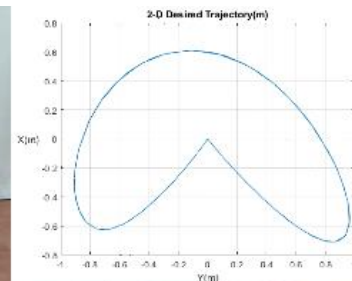
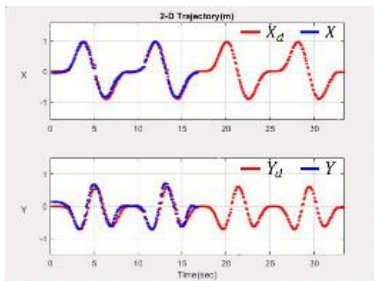
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# Experiments - Video

- The experiments is based on [ncrl-flight-control](#) mainly contributed by [Shengwen](#)



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# Conclusion

- An ICL controller has been developed for controlling a multirotor with an unknown mass and moment of inertia
- The control architecture can be applied to many types of multirotors of unknown mass, including hexacopters and octocopters
- The ICL controller ensures the steady-state errors resulted from the wrong parameters be eliminated
- The ICL controller can guarantee asymptotic convergence of the system parameters, while the adaptive controller cannot
- Future work can be estimate other parameters of the multirotor, such as off-diagonal elements in the inertia matrix and the center of mass.

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# Thanks for listening!