

Final Year Project Report

Development of Autonomous Drone

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Course:

Aerospace Systems & Management

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Acknowledgement..... | 3 |
| Introduction | 3 |
| Objective..... | 3 |
| Background..... | 3 |
| Scope..... | 3 |
| Problem Statement | 4 |
| Overview | 5 |
| Project Description | 6 |
| What is Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM)? | 6 |
| Project Requirements..... | 7 |
| Project Development | 8 |
| System Overview | 8 |
| Hardware Development..... | 9 |
| • External Hardware..... | 9 |
| • Quadcopter Hardware | 10 |
| • Quadcopter Avionics Module | 10 |
| • Quadcopter Power Module | 13 |
| • Quadcopter Thrust Module | 13 |
| • Connection..... | 14 |
| Software Development | 15 |
| • Configuring the laptop | 15 |
| • Configuring the Companion Computer | 15 |
| • Configuring the Quadcopter | 16 |
| • Modification for rqt UI | 16 |
| References | 21 |

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my special thanks of gratitude to my supervisor Mr. Gan An Zhi who gave me the golden opportunity to do this wonderful project, which provides me with the encouragement, support and guidance in python programming and I came to know about so many new things I am really thankful to him.

Secondly, I would also like to thank my friend, Brendon Koh Wan Jie who invited me to join this competition.

Introduction

Objective

To develop an autonomous quadcopter will be used to participate in Singapore Amazing Flying Machine Competition (SAFMC).

To develop a path planning python script for fully autonomous mission.

Background

Every year, DSO National Laboratories and Science Centre Singapore organize the Singapore Amazing Flying Machine Competition (SAFMC). The Singapore Amazing Flying Machine Competition (SAFMC) is an annual competition where local and international flying enthusiasts gather to showcase their innovative flying machine designs and put them to the test through competition against one another.

I volunteer to participate in the Singapore Amazing Flying Machine Competition Category D2 team, which required us to design and build an autonomous small air platform to perform a multitude of tasks in an indoor open course.

Scope

Develop a localization system for the autonomous quadcopter to navigate through obstacle in an indoor environment and planning a path planning script to enable fully autonomous mission.

Problem Statement

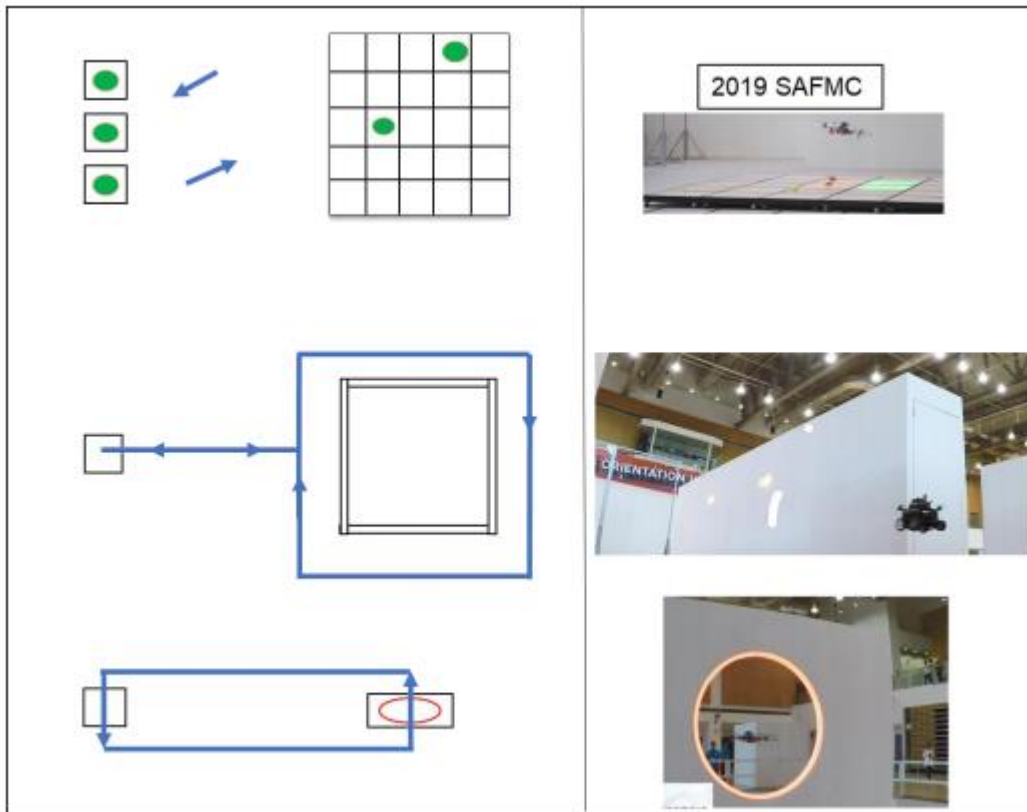
Deploy Defense Sensors: The aircraft is to deliver up to 3 payloads to the grid, ensuring that each payload lands in separate squares without touching the black borders. Bonus points are awarded if the payloads are delivered to the corner squares, which will be lit up in GREEN. Single or multiple payloads may be manually loaded, at the take-off/landing pads when the aircraft has landed. Points are awarded for landing in the landing pad if at least 1 payload is delivered successfully.

Border Surveillance: The aircraft is to patrol the border completely, covering the full perimeter of the square. The flight path will be limited to a 5-meter corridor around the square wall. Bonus points are awarded for spotting features (such as a picture or a number) that will be placed on the border walls. These features will be placed at a height of between 1.2m to 1.8m off the ground. Successful spotting of the features is determined through the live feed on the on-board camera or a saved image capture. Autonomous operation of the aircraft is expected from take-off to landing.

Window fly-through. The aircraft is to fly through the circular window. Autonomous operation of the aircraft is expected from take-off to landing. The take-off pads are 700mm by 700mm by 3mm and each light box square is 700mm by 700mm inclusive of the black borders. Any ground aids used for take-off or landing must be placed at the designated locations – points for landing will only be awarded if the aircraft lands within the designated square area (based on aircraft centroid from top view), irrespective of external ground aids employed. i.e. If a drone box larger than the landing pad is used, points will only be awarded if the drone lands in the designated landing area in the drone box.

Overview

Competition Setup



- The competition setup for Category D2 is as shown above. Teams can choose to participate in any or all the 3 missions to accrue the highest number of points within a 15-minute timeframe. Another 15 minutes will be given for setup/calibration immediately before their mission attempt. There will be a running clock, where the mission time automatically starts after the setup time.
- Each mission is a standalone and can be undertaken in any order. No penalties are applied if the missions are not attempted or failed. Teams can manually shift their aircraft to and from the respective take-off and landing pads once the aircraft is safely landed.
- If the team needs to repair/troubleshoot the aircraft, they are required (if possible) to land the aircraft either on the take-off and landing pads or on the grid. All repairs/troubleshooting should be done either on the take-off and landing pads or outside of the playing field.

Project Description

The competition arena will be held in an indoor environment; indoor positioning systems cannot make use of Global Positioning System (GPS) signals because they are too weak to penetrate indoors. Therefore, the drone cannot be able to navigate through the arena using GPS. a localization system for indoor environment need to be develop.

What is Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM)?

To get around, robots need a little help from maps, just like the rest of us. Just like humans, bots can't always rely on GPS, especially when they operate indoors. And GPS isn't sufficiently accurate enough outdoors because precision within a few inches is required to move about safely. Instead they rely on what's known as simultaneous localization and mapping, or SLAM, to discover and map their surroundings.

Using SLAM, robots build their own maps as they go. It lets them know their position by aligning the sensor data they collect with whatever sensor data they've already collected to build out a map for navigation.

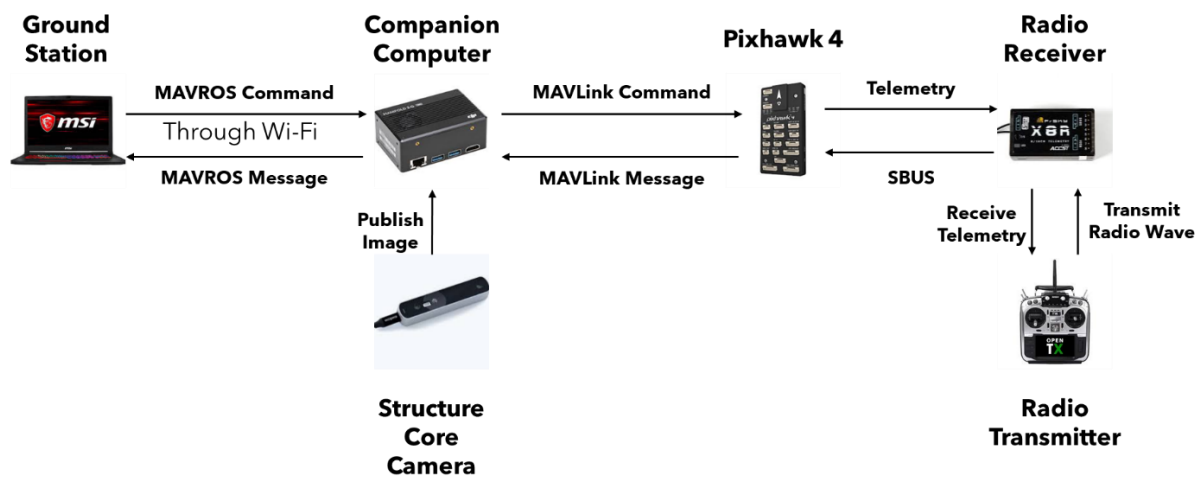
In this project, I will be using the Structure Core to develop a localization system using source code provides from online tutorial. This source code is a SLAM approach that can be used without odometry and even in platforms that exhibit roll/pitch motion (of the sensor, the platform or both). It reads the infrared image scan data from the quadcopter and returns 2D pose estimation.

Project Requirements

- Configure onboard computer (NUC) and laptop
- Develop a localization and navigation system for the autonomous drone
- Integrate the vision information (distance between the center point to the quadcopter) into the path planning script
- Writing a path planning python script for fully autonomous mission
- Create a user interface for the ease of trouble shooting and adjustment for drone

Project Development

System Overview



- **Robot Operating System (ROS):** ROS provides the services you would expect from an operating system, including hardware abstraction, low-level device control, implementation of commonly used functionality, message-passing between processes, and package management. It also provides tools and libraries for obtaining, building, writing, and running code across multiple computers. A ROS system is comprised of several independent nodes, each of which communicates with the other nodes using a publish/subscribe messaging model.
- **Primary Base Station GUI (QGroundControl):** All the code in QGroundControl is open-source and it provides full flight control and mission planning for any MAVLink enabled drone.
- **Secondary Base Station GUI (rqt):** This base station was develop using Qt Creator (GUI) and it can be customized to our needs. It displays the important parameters to be monitored and additional feature such as flight mode selection, sending of position setpoint and activation of release mechanism.
- **Router:** Provide the data transfer between the laptop and the onboard computer using Wi-Fi.
- **On-board Computer:** The high-level control is performed by the DJI Manifold 2C as an on-board computer, using ROS as an implementation framework.

- MAVROS: Micro Aerial Vehicle Robotic Operating System (MAVROS) is a comprehensive ROS package that makes use of the Micro Air Vehicle Link (MAVLink) communication library. It serves as a gateway for sending and receiving information between ROS nodes and a MAVLink compatible Flight Controller (FC). MAVROS provides a method of connecting to a FC over serial port, User Datagram Protocol (UDP) or TCP. This flexibility is important for software testing with a simulated FC executing locally, allowing for cohesion between FC hardware execution and SITL simulation testing. Acting as a bridge from MAVLink to ROS, MAVROS supplies the medium to interface the onboard computer with the Pixhawk FC for high-level control.
- MAVLink: MAVLink is a parallel outcome of the PX4 project used for communication between the Flight Controller Unit and the ground station or the onboard computer. It is designed as a marshalling library, i.e. serializing the defined messages for transmission.
- Gazebo: The Gazebo simulation environment was used for software testing for its modeling capabilities and compatibility with ROS and PX4 Firmware, allowing for Software-In-The-Loop (SITL) testing of quadcopter, future algorithms and platform designs that closely simulate actual conditions.

Hardware Development

- External Hardware
 - Laptop: *MSI GE73VR 7RE Raider*
 - CPU: Intel(R) Core (TM) i7-7700HQ
 - GPU: GeForce® GTX 1060 with 6GB GDDR5
 - Display: 17.3" FHD (1920x1080), 120Hz, 5ms, Wide-View
 - Storage: 256GB SSD & 1TB HDD
 - RAM: 16 GB
 - Weight: 2.8 kg



➤ *Wireless Router: D-Link DIR-842 Wireless AC1200 Dual Band Gigabit Router*

- Device Interfaces:
 - IEEE 802.11 ac/n/g/b/a wireless LAN
 - 10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet Wan port –
 - Four 10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet LAN ports
- Operating Frequency:
 - 2.4 GHz band: 2400 - 2483.5 MHz
 - 5 GHz band: 5150 - 5725 MHz
- Security:
 - WPA & WPA2 (Wi-Fi Protected Access)
 - WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup)



➤ *Radio Controller Transmitter (2.4GHz): Jumper T16 Pro*

- Size: 180*190*58
- Weight: 888g
- Voltage: DC7-8.4V
- Current: 350mah (NO CRSF)
- Channel: 16ch
- Internal Jumper JP4-in-1 Built in Module



• *Quadcopter Hardware*

➤ *Quad X Carbon Fiber Frame and Soft Buffer Landing Gear*

- Board and Component Support: carbon fiber frame, light and strong
- Copter Arm: carbon fibre tube 20mm diameter
- Arm Mount: tube clipper 20mm diameter
- Size: 500mm (diagonal measurement)
- Avionics Support: nylon spacers (light and insulated)

• *Quadcopter Avionics Module*

➤ *Holybro Pixhawk 4*

- Technical Specifications
 - ◆ Main FMU Processor: STM32F765
 - 32 Bit Arm® Cortex® -M7, 216MHz, 2MB memory, 512KB RAM
 - ◆ IO Processor: STM32F100
 - 32 Bit Arm® Cortex® -M3, 24MHz, 8KB SRAM
 - ◆ On-board sensors
 - Accel/Gyro: ICM-20689
 - Accel/Gyro: BMI055
 - Mag: IST8310
 - Barometer: MS5611



- Interfaces
 - 8-16 PWM servo outputs (8 from IO, 8 from FMU)
 - 3 dedicated PWM/Capture inputs on FMU
 - Dedicated R/C input for CPPM
 - Dedicated R/C input for Spektrum / DSM and S.Bus
 - with analog / PWM RSSI input
 - Dedicated S.Bus servo output
 - 5 general purpose serial ports
 - ◆ 2 with full flow control
 - ◆ 1 with separate 1.5A current limit
 - 3 I2C ports
 - 4 SPI buses
 - ◆ 1 internal high-speed SPI sensor bus with 4 chip selects and 6 DRDYs
 - ◆ 1 internal low noise SPI bus dedicated for
 - ◆ Barometer with 2 chip selects, no DRDYs - 1 internal SPI bus dedicated for FRAM
 - ◆ Supports dedicated SPI calibration EEPROM located on sensor module - 1 external SPI buses
 - Up to 2 CAN Buses for dual CAN with serial E
 - ◆ Each CAN Bus has individual silent controls or ESC RX-MUX control
 - Analog inputs for voltage/current of 2 batteries
 - 2 additional analog inputs
- Electrical Data
 - Voltage Ratings
 - ◆ Power module output: 4.9~5.5V
 - ◆ Max input voltage: 6V
 - ◆ Max current sensing: 120A
 - ◆ USB Power Input: 4.75~5.25V
 - ◆ Servo Rail Input: 0~36V
- Mechanical Data
 - Dimensions: 44x84x12mm
 - Weight: 33.3g

➤ *Electronic Speed Controller (ESC): F55A PRO II•F3 6S 4IN1 32bit*

- Current: 4*55A
- Peak current (10S): 4*75A
- BEC: 10V@2.0A
- LiPo: 3-6S
- Weight: 17.5g
- Size: 45*41*7.3mm
- Mounting Hole: 30.5*30.5mm



➤ *Radio Controller Receiver (2.4GHz): X8R*

- Weight: 16.6g
- Case: 46.25 x 26.6 x 14.2mm (L x W x H)
- Operating Range: full range (>1.5km)
- Operating Voltage Range: 4.0~10V
- Operating Current: 100mA@5V
- Number of Channels: 16CH (1~8ch from conventional channel outputs, 1~16ch from SBUS port or combine two X8R to become a 16 channels receiver)



➤ *Lidar Lite V3*

- Power (operating voltage): 4.75-5 VDC; 6 V Max
- Current consumption: 105ma, idle; 130ma, continuous
- Accuracy: +/- 2.5 cm at distances greater than 1 meter. Refer to operating manual for complete operating specifications.
- Range: 5 cm to 40 meters
- Update rate: up to 500 Hz



➤ *Localization Sensor: Structure Core (Color)*

- Dimensions: 109*24*18mm
- Weight: 52.5 grams
- Depth Processing: On-device using NU3000 ASIC
- Depth Min/Max Z Distance: 0.3-5m. Up to 10m (Depending on scene & lighting conditions.)
- Depth Precision: $\pm 0.29\%$ (Plane-fit RMS at 1m.)
- Depth Resolution & Frame Rate: 1280 x 960 @ 54 FPS
- Depth FOV (H x V x D): 59° x 46° x 70°
- Visible Resolution & Frame Rate: 640 x 480 @ 100 FPS
- Visible FOV (Diagonal): 85°
- IMU
 - Bosch BMI055
 - 6-Axis (Gyro and Accelerometer), up to 1000 Hz
- Up to 2000Hz if streaming only Gyro or Accelerometer
- Projector: Laser projector module (infrared, Class 1 rating for eye safety)
- Use Environment: Indoor / Outdoor
- Power: 2.0W (typical active), 3.1W (typical maximum)
- Connectivity: USB 3 (Type-C), USB 2.0 operation supported
- Operating Temperature (Ambient): 0° to 35° C (32° to 95° F) (ambient, open air)



Development of Autonomous Drone

➤ *Companion Computer: DJI Manifold 2C*

- Weight: Approx. 205 g
- Dimensions: 91 x 61 x 35 mm
- Processor: Intel Core i7-8550U
- Memory: 8GB
- Storage: 256 GB SSD
- Network
- 1000Mbps Ethernet RJ-45 Port
- USB: USB 3.0 Port (Type A) × 2, USB 3.0 Port (Micro-B) × 1
- I/O: UART Port 1
- Power: 5 - 60 W



• *Quadcopter Power Module*

➤ *6S LiPo Battery: Zolta 35C 6S1P 5200mAh*

- Capacity: 5200mAh
- Voltage: 6S1P / 6 Cell / 22.2V
- Weight: 708g
- Discharge Connector: XT90
- Balance Connector: JST-XH (with plug saver)
- Continuous Discharge: 35C
- Burst Discharge: 70C



• *Quadcopter Thrust Module*

➤ *Motor: Antigravity 4006 KV380*

| Prop | Throttle | Current (A) | Power (W) | Thrust (G) | RPM | Efficiency (G/W) | Torque (N*m) | Operating Temperature (°C) |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| T-MOTOR 13*4.4CF | 50% | 2 | 48.00 | 544 | 3719 | 11.33 | 0.096 | 30 |
| | 55% | 2.5 | 60.00 | 656 | 4528 | 10.93 | 0.108 | |
| | 60% | 3.1 | 74.40 | 753 | 4840 | 10.12 | 0.123 | |
| | 65% | 3.7 | 88.80 | 853 | 5155 | 9.61 | 0.139 | |
| | 75% | 5.1 | 122.40 | 1062 | 5451 | 8.68 | 0.172 | |
| | 85% | 6.8 | 163.20 | 1286 | 6327 | 7.88 | 0.208 | |
| | 100% | 9.7 | 232.80 | 1633 | 6515 | 7.01 | 0.267 | |

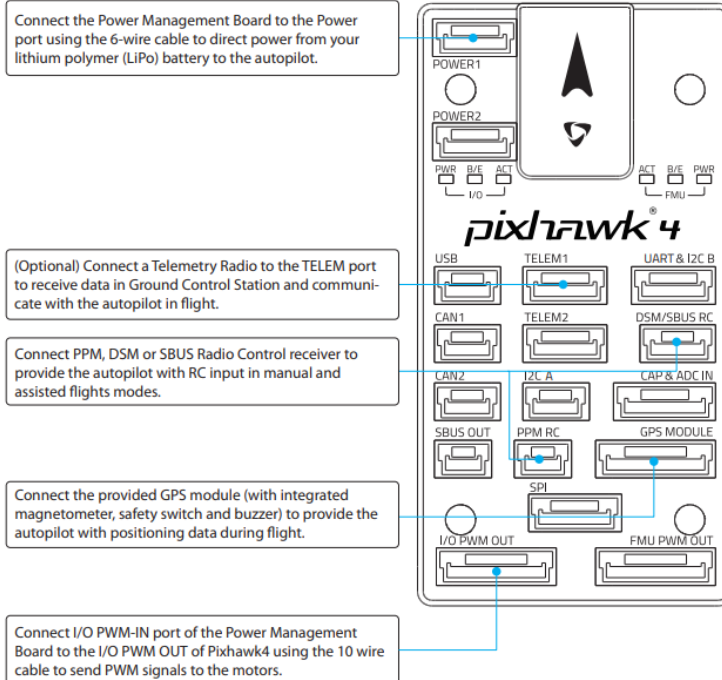
➤ *Propeller: APC Multi-Rotor Propeller 13x5.5 MR*

- Pitch (inches): 5.5
- Propeller Diameter (in.): 13
- Hub Diameter: 0.65 in.
- Shaft Diameter: ¼ in.
- Product Weight: 0.85 oz.
- Color: Grey

Development of Autonomous Drone

- Connection

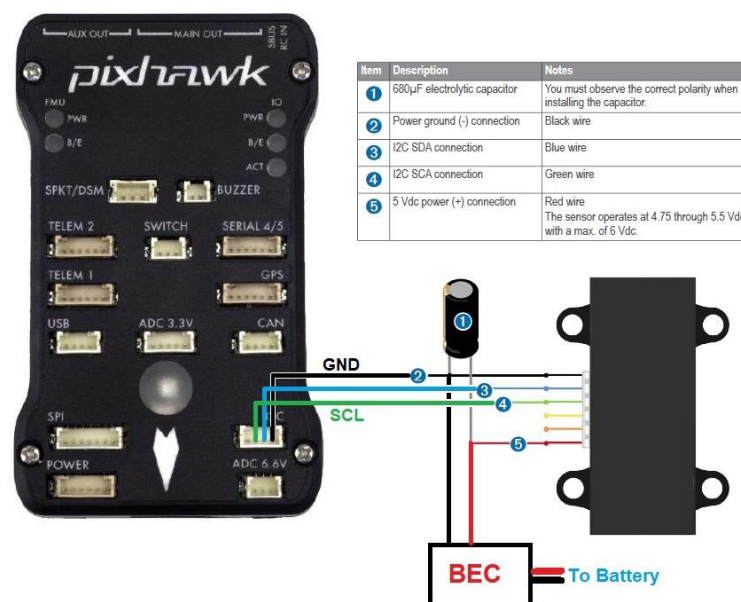
- Pixhawk 4 Wiring Diagram



- FTDI Chip USB-to-serial adapter board connection

| TELEM2 | | FTDI | |
|--------|-----------|------|------------------------|
| 1 | +5V (red) | | DO NOT CONNECT! |
| 2 | Tx (out) | 5 | FTDI RX (yellow) (in) |
| 3 | Rx (in) | 4 | FTDI TX (orange) (out) |
| 4 | CTS (in) | 6 | FTDI RTS (green) (out) |
| 5 | RTS (out) | 2 | FTDI CTS (brown) (in) |
| 6 | GND | 1 | FTDI GND (black) |

- Lidar Lite V3 connection

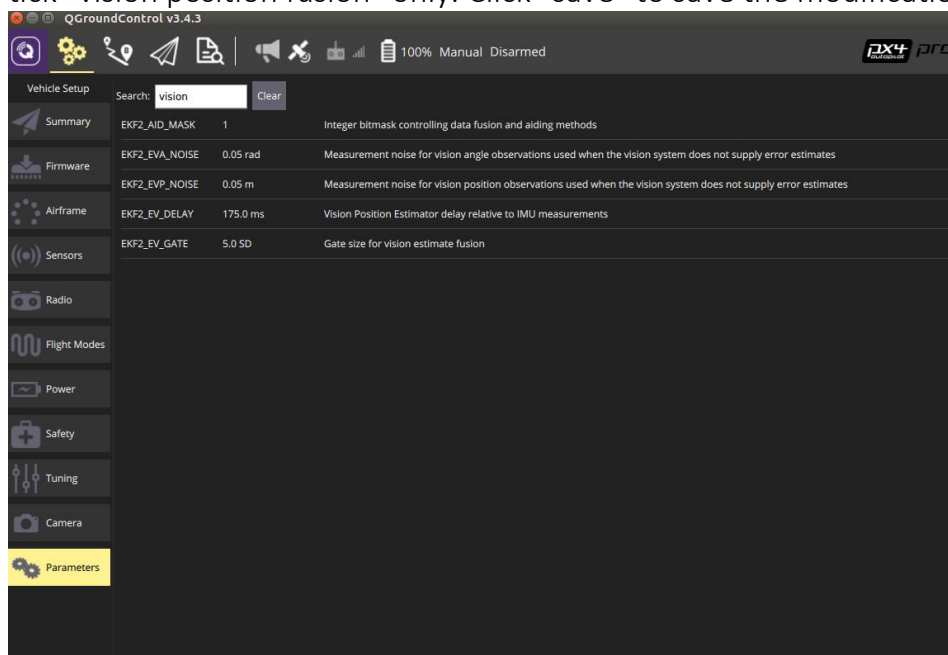


Software Development

- Configuring the laptop
 - *Install Ubuntu 16.04*
 - Follow the guide from <https://www.linuxtechi.com/how-to-dual-boot-windows-10-ubuntu-16-04/>
 - *Setup Gazebo testing environment by installing ROS, MAVROS, and other dependencies.*
 - For offboard control
 - Follow the guide from <https://gaas.gitbook.io/guide/software-realization-build-your-own-autonomous-drone/build-your-own-autonomous-drone-e01-offboard-control-and-gazebo-simulation>
 - For SLAM
 - Follow the guide from <https://gaas.gitbook.io/guide/software-realization-build-your-own-autonomous-drone/build-your-own-autonomous-drone-part-3-using-slam-in-gps-denied-environment-for-position-estimation>
 - *Install Qt Creator*
 - Download and install from <https://www.qt.io/offline-installers>
 - *Create rqt UI package file*
 - Follow the instruction form https://github.com/how-chen/rqt_mypkg
 - *Install Structure SDK package*
 - Sign up from <https://developer.structure.io/sdk>
 - Download the Structure SDK (Cross-Platform) zip file and follow the installation instruction inside the zip file.
- Configuring the Companion Computer
 - *Install ROS, MAVROS, and other dependencies.*
 - For offboard control
 - Follow the guide from <https://gaas.gitbook.io/guide/software-realization-build-your-own-autonomous-drone/build-your-own-autonomous-drone-e01-offboard-control-and-gazebo-simulation>
 - For SLAM
 - Follow the guide from <https://gaas.gitbook.io/guide/software-realization-build-your-own-autonomous-drone/build-your-own-autonomous-drone-part-3-using-slam-in-gps-denied-environment-for-position-estimation>

Development of Autonomous Drone

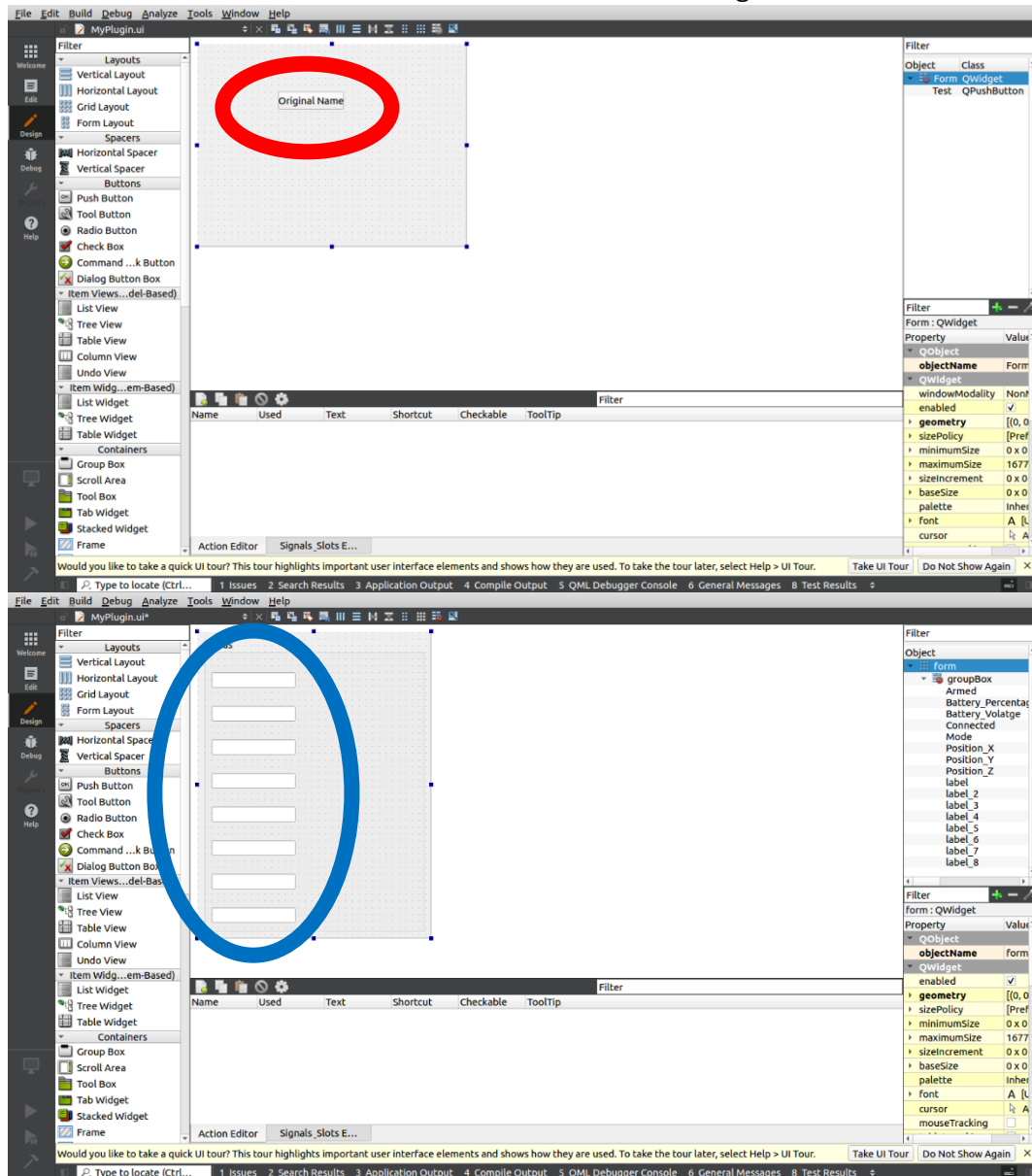
- *Install Structure SDK package*
 - Sign up from <https://developer.structure.io/sdk>
 - Download the Structure SDK (Cross-Platform) zip file and follow the installation instruction inside the zip file.
- *Configuring the Quadcopter*
 - *Basic configuration*
 - <https://docs.px4.io/v1.9.0/en/config/index.html>
 - *Configuration for linking companion computer*
 - Follow the Pixhawk Setup instruction from https://dev.px4.io/v1.9.0/en/companion_computer/pixhawk_companion.html#pixhawk-setup
 - *Configuration for SLAM*
 - To enable vision as the source of external position estimation, select the top left GEAR button and select "Parameters", input "vision" in the search and tick "vision position fusion" only. Click "save" to save the modification.



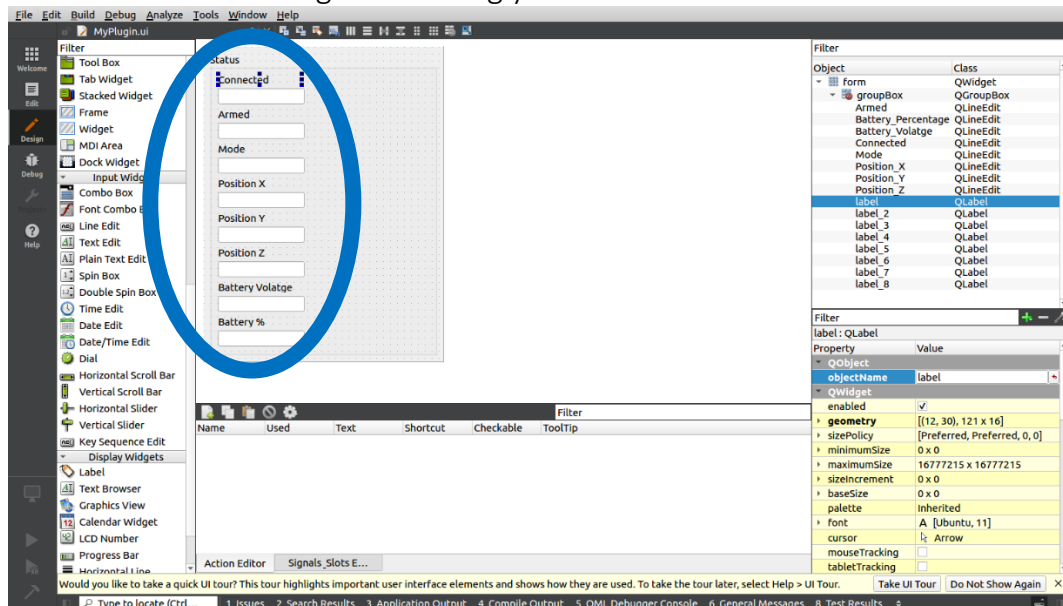
- *Modification for rqt UI*
 - *Change the UI layout*
 1. Open the rqt_mypkg folder under the specific catkin workspace, under the resource folder open the MyPlugin.ui with Qt Creator

Development of Autonomous Drone

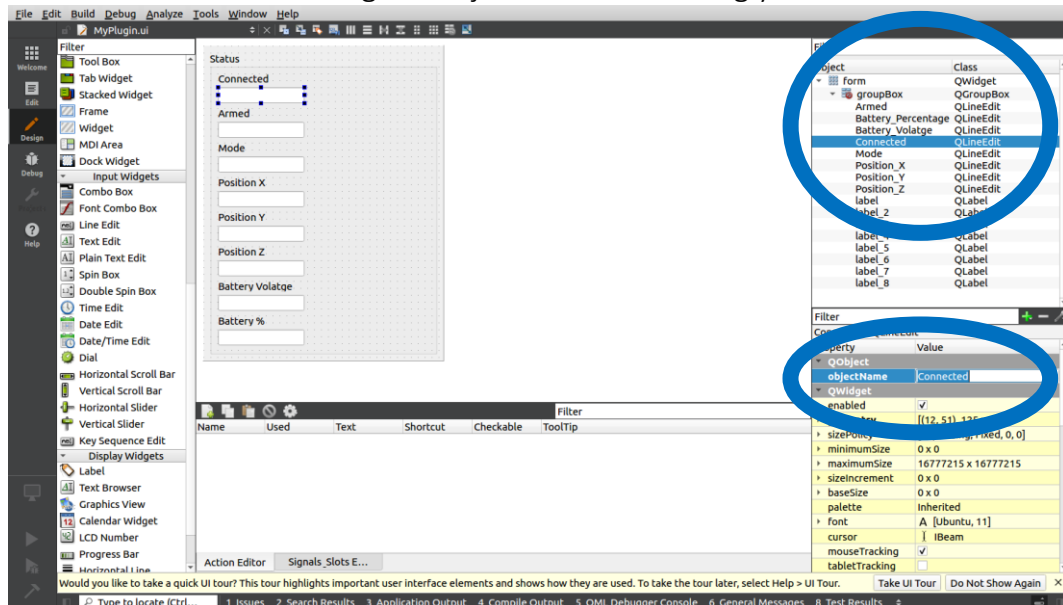
2. Delete the button & add a few Label and Line Edit widget to the UI



3. Rename the Label widget accordingly



4. Rename the Line Edit widget's objectName accordingly



5. Save the file

➤ Edit the python code

- Open the `rqt_mypkg` folder under the specific catkin workspace, under the `src` folder open the `my_module.py`
- Replace the code with this, those highlighted code are newly added to subscribe the MAVROS topic to display on the UI

```

1. import os
2. import rospkg
3. import rospy
4.
5. from qt_gui.plugin import Plugin
6. from python_qt_binding import loadUi
7. from python_qt_binding.QtWidgets import QWidget
8. # Import MAVROS message
9. from mavros_msgs.msg import State
10. from geometry_msgs.msg import PoseStamped, Point, Pose
11. from sensor_msgs.msg import BatteryState
12.
13. class MyPlugin(Plugin):
14.
15.     def __init__(self, context):
16.         super(MyPlugin, self).__init__(context)
17.         # Give QObjects reasonable names
18.         self.setObjectName('MyPlugin')
19.         rp = rospkg.RosPack()
20.
21.         # Process standalone plugin command-line arguments
22.         from argparse import ArgumentParser
23.         parser = ArgumentParser()
24.         # Add argument(s) to the parser.
25.         parser.add_argument("-q", "--quiet", action="store_true",
26.                             dest="quiet",
27.                             help="Put plugin in silent mode")
28.         args, unknowns = parser.parse_known_args(context.argv())
29.         if not args.quiet:
30.             print 'arguments: ', args
31.             print 'unknowns: ', unknowns
32.
33.         # Create QWidget

```

```

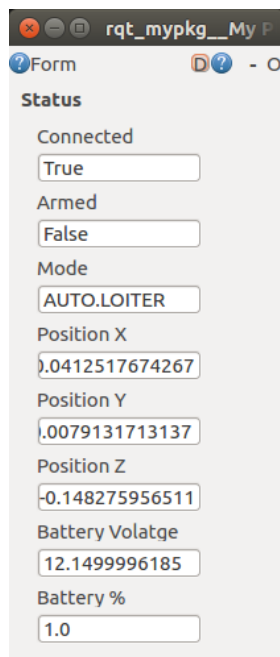
34.         self._widget = QWidget()
35.         # Get path to UI file which is a sibling of this file
36.         # in this example the .ui and .py file are in the same folder
37.         ui_file = os.path.join(rp.get_path('rqt_mypkg'), 'resource', 'MyPlugin.ui')

38.         # Extend the widget with all attributes and children from UI file
39.         loadUi(ui_file, self._widget)
40.         # Give QObjects reasonable names
41.         self._widget.setObjectName('MyPluginUi')
42.         # Show _widget.windowTitle on left-top of each plugin (when
43.         # it's set in _widget). This is useful when you open multiple
44.         # plugins at once. Also if you open multiple instances of your
45.         # plugin at once, these lines add number to make it easy to
46.         # tell from pane to pane.
47.         if context.serial_number() > 1:
48.             self._widget.setWindowTitle(self._widget.windowTitle() + (' (%d)' % cont
ext.serial_number()))
49.         # Add widget to the user interface
50.         context.add_widget(self._widget)
51.
52.         # Widget
53.         self._widget.Connected.setReadOnly(True)
54.         self._widget.Armed.setReadOnly(True)
55.         self._widget.Mode.setReadOnly(True)
56.         self._widget.Position_X.setReadOnly(True)
57.         self._widget.Position_Y.setReadOnly(True)
58.         self._widget.Position_Z.setReadOnly(True)
59.         self._widget.Battery_Volatge.setReadOnly(True)
60.         self._widget.Battery_Percentage.setReadOnly(True)
61.
62.         # Subscriber
63.         rospy.Subscriber("/mavros/state", State, self.state_callback)
64.         rospy.Subscriber("/mavros/local_position/pose/", PoseStamped, self.pose_callback
)
65.         rospy.Subscriber("/mavros/battery", BatteryState, self.batt_callback)
66.
67.         # Callback
68.         def state_callback(self, data):
69.             Connected=str(data.connected)
70.             self._widget.Connected.setText(Connected)
71.             Armed=str(data.armed)
72.             self._widget.Armed.setText(Armed)
73.             Mode=str(data.mode)
74.             self._widget.Mode.setText(Mode)
75.
76.         def pose_callback(self, data):
77.             Position_X=str(data.pose.position.x)
78.             self._widget.Position_X.setText(Position_X)
79.             Position_Y=str(data.pose.position.y)
80.             self._widget.Position_Y.setText(Position_Y)
81.             Position_Z=str(data.pose.position.z)
82.             self._widget.Position_Z.setText(Position_Z)
83.
84.
85.         def batt_callback(self, data):
86.             Battery_Volatge=str(data.voltage)
87.             self._widget.Battery_Volatge.setText(Battery_Volatge)
88.             Battery_Percentage=str(data.percentage)
89.             self._widget.Battery_Percentage.setText(Battery_Percentage)
90.
91.
92.         def shutdown_plugin(self):
93.             # TODO unregister all publishers here
94.             pass
95.
96.         def save_settings(self, plugin_settings, instance_settings):
97.             # TODO save intrinsic configuration, usually using:
98.             # instance_settings.set_value(k, v)
99.             pass

```

```
100.  
101.         def restore_settings(self, plugin_settings, instance_settings):  
102.             # TODO restore intrinsic configuration, usually using:  
103.             # v = instance_settings.value(k)  
104.             pass  
105.  
106.         #def trigger_configuration(self):  
107.             # Comment in to signal that the plugin has a way to configure  
108.             # This will enable a setting button (gear icon) in each dock widget t  
109.             # Usually used to open a modal configuration dialog
```

8. Save the file
9. If you run gazebo simulation and run this package by typing *roslaunch rqt_my_pkg rqt_my_pkg*, the MAVROS message will be show on the UI



The screenshot shows a window titled "rqt_my_pkg__My P". Inside, there is a "Form" tab with a "Status" section. The status section contains several fields with their current values:

| Field | Value |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Connected | True |
| Armed | False |
| Mode | AUTO.LOITER |
| Position X | 0.0412517674267 |
| Position Y | 0.0079131713137 |
| Position Z | -0.148275956511 |
| Battery Voltage | 12.1499996185 |
| Battery % | 1.0 |

References

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