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Inventor(s)	Wong; Kin Man Michael et al.

COLLABORATIVE STEERING SYSTEM FOR A VEHICLE

Abstract

A steering system for a vehicle that includes a driver-controllable steering device; a power steering actuator coupled to a steerable vehicle wheel; an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) including a spatial monitoring system; and a steering controller. A steering control routine determines a target path and a target trajectory for the vehicle based upon an input from the spatial monitoring system; determines a driver steering command; determines external factors related to the target path and the target trajectory; determines a weighting factor for the driver steering command based upon the plurality of external factors; determines a steering angle command based upon the driver steering command, the weighting factor for the driver steering command, the target path, and the target trajectory; and controls the power steering actuator to control the steerable wheel responsive to the steering angle command.

Inventors:	Wong; Kin Man Michael (Thornhill, CA), MacCallum; Ben (Toronto, CA), Bagga; Puneet (Etobicoke, CA), Mahvelatishamsabadi; Parisa (North York, CA), Zarringhalam; Reza (Whitby, CA)
Applicant:	GM GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS LLC (Detroit, MI)
Family ID:	1000007685760
Assignee:	GM GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS LLC (Detroit, MI)
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Background/Summary

INTRODUCTION

[0001] Steering systems are employed to provide directional control of a vehicle.

SUMMARY

[0002] The concepts described herein include a steering system for a vehicle having an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS), which comprehends a driver steering command and employs a predictive model in trajectory tracking to collaboratively control actuator(s) to effect vehicle steering.

[0003] An aspect of the disclosure may include a steering system for a vehicle that includes a driver-controllable steering device; a power steering actuator coupled to a steerable wheel; an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) including a spatial monitoring system; and a steering controller. The steering controller is in communication with the steering device, the power steering actuator, and the ADAS. The steering controller includes a collaborative steering subsystem that is operative to: determine, via the steering device, a driver steering command; determine, via the ADAS, a target path and a target trajectory for the vehicle based upon an input from the spatial monitoring system; determine a second steering command based upon the target path and the target trajectory for the vehicle; determine, via the spatial monitoring system, a plurality of external factors related to the target path and the target trajectory; determine a weighted driver steering command based upon the plurality of external factors and the driver steering command; determine, via a steering control routine, a steering angle command based upon the weighted driver steering command and the

second steering command; and control the power steering actuator to control the steerable wheel responsive to the steering angle command.

[0004] Another aspect of the disclosure may include the power steering actuator being a steer-by-wire steering system.

[0005] Another aspect of the disclosure may include the power steering actuator being a rack-and-pinion steering system.

[0006] Another aspect of the disclosure may include a navigation system, wherein the steering control routine is executable to determine, via the ADAS, the target path and a target trajectory for the vehicle based upon the input from the spatial monitoring system and an input from the navigation system.

[0007] Another aspect of the disclosure may include the collaborative steering subsystem being operative to determine the weighted driver steering command based upon the plurality of external factors, including the steering control routine being operative to: determine a first weighting factor associated with a first steering direction based upon the plurality of external factors; determine a second weighting factor associated with a second steering direction that is opposite to the first steering direction based upon the plurality of external factors; and determine the weighted driver steering command based upon the driver steering command, the first weighting factor for the driver steering command, and the second weighting factor for the driver steering command.

[0008] Another aspect of the disclosure may include the steering control routine being operative to modify the second steering command in response to the weighted driver steering command and the second steering command.

[0009] Another aspect of the disclosure may include the plurality of external factors related to the target path and the target trajectory being one of a distance to a perceived side threat to the vehicle, or a distance to a perceived obstacle in the target path of the vehicle.

[0010] Another aspect of the disclosure may include the steering control routine including a driver steering alert routine operable to detect occurrence of a constraint violation of the target path or target trajectory for the vehicle, and communicate a control action to the driver based upon the constraint violation.

[0011] Another aspect of the disclosure may include the steering control routine including a steering emulator routine operable to generate a steering wheel torque command, wherein the steering wheel torque command is employed to control the steering wheel to provide a torque resistance in response to the driver steering command.

[0012] Another aspect of the disclosure may include the steering control routine executing a model predictive controller routine (MPC) to determine the steering angle command based upon the driver steering command, the weighted driver steering command, and the second steering command.

[0013] Another aspect of the disclosure may include a method for steering a vehicle having an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS). The method includes equipping the vehicle with a driver-controllable steering device, a power steering actuator coupled to a steerable vehicle wheel, a spatial monitoring system, and a navigation system; determining, via the steering device, a driver steering command; monitoring, via the spatial monitoring system, an area that is proximal to the vehicle; determining, via a navigation system, travel route information; determining, via the ADAS, a target path and a target trajectory for the vehicle based upon an input from the spatial monitoring system and the travel route information from the navigation system; determining a second steering command based upon the target path and the target trajectory; determining, via the spatial monitoring system, a plurality of external factors related to the target path and the target trajectory; determining a weighted driver steering command based upon the plurality of external factors; determining a steering angle command based upon the weighted driver steering command and the second steering command; and controlling the power steering actuator to control the steerable wheel responsive to the steering angle command.

[0014] Another aspect of the disclosure may include a method for controlling steering on a vehicle that includes equipping the vehicle with a driver-controllable steering device, a power steering actuator coupled to a steerable vehicle wheel, an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) including a spatial monitoring system, and a navigation system; determining, via the ADAS and the navigation system, a target path and a target trajectory for the vehicle; determining a second steering command based upon the target path and the target trajectory for the vehicle; determining, via the steering device, a driver steering command; determining, via the spatial monitoring system, a plurality of external factors related to the target path and the target trajectory; determining a weighted driver steering command based upon the plurality of external factors; executing a model predictive controller routine (MPC) to determine a steering angle command based upon the weighted driver steering command, the target path, and the target trajectory; and controlling the power steering actuator to control the steerable wheel responsive to the steering angle command.

[0015] Another aspect of the disclosure may include the steering control routine being executable to determine the weighting factor for the driver steering command based upon the plurality of external factors including determining a first weighting function associated with a first steering direction, and determining a second weighting function associated with a second steering direction that is opposite to the first steering direction. In one embodiment, the first steering direction is a rightward steering direction, and the second steering direction is a leftward steering direction. In one embodiment, the first steering direction is a leftward steering direction and the second steering direction is a rightward steering direction.

[0016] The concepts described herein comprehend a driver steering command in trajectory tracking employing a model predictive controller (MPC). The driver steering command is incorporated in an objective function and a prediction model in the MPC. The weight of the objective function may be adapted in response to activation of an active driver assist mode, driver preference, external conditions, and control performance. Advanced warning may be issued to the driver of an impending constraint violation to allow the driver to assist in vehicle control to maintain control beyond normal operation envelope. A feedback function provides collaborative steering torque overlay feedback to the driver in a steer-by-wire system, and thus enables a unified and intuitive collaborative steering strategy to be applied to all automated driving assist feature and steering controller.

[0017] The above summary is not intended to represent every possible embodiment or every aspect of the present disclosure. Rather, the foregoing summary is intended to exemplify some of the novel aspects and features disclosed herein. The above features and advantages, and other features and advantages of the present disclosure, will be readily apparent from the following detailed description of representative embodiments and modes for carrying out the present disclosure when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the claims.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] One or more embodiments will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0019] FIG. **1** pictorially illustrates a vehicle, in accordance with the disclosure.

[0020] FIG. **2A** schematically illustrates elements of an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) and a steer-by-wire steering system employable on a vehicle, in accordance with the disclosure.

[0021] FIG. **2B** schematically illustrates elements of an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) and a rack-and-pinion steering system employable on a vehicle, in accordance with the disclosure.

[0022] FIG. **3** schematically illustrates elements of a steering system that is employable on a vehicle, in accordance with the disclosure.

[0023] FIG. **4** schematically illustrates elements of a Model Predictive Controller (MPC) for a steering system that is employable on a vehicle, in accordance with the disclosure.

[0024] FIG. **5** schematically illustrates elements of a driver steering alert routine that is employable on a vehicle, in accordance with the disclosure.

[0025] FIG. **6** schematically illustrates elements of a steering emulator routine that is employable on a vehicle.

[0026] The appended drawings are not necessarily to scale, and may present a somewhat simplified representation of various features of the present disclosure as disclosed herein, including, for example, specific dimensions, orientations, locations, and shapes. Details associated with such features will be determined in part by the particular intended application and use environment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0027] The components of the disclosed embodiments, as described and illustrated herein, may be arranged and designed in a variety of different configurations. Thus, the following detailed description is not intended to limit the scope of the disclosure, as claimed, but merely represents possible embodiments thereof. In addition, while numerous specific details are set forth in the following description in order to provide a thorough understanding of the embodiments disclosed herein, some embodiments may be practiced without some of these details. Moreover, for the purpose of clarity, certain technical material that is understood in the related art has not been described in detail in order to avoid unnecessarily obscuring the disclosure.

[0028] For purposes of convenience and clarity only, directional terms such as top, bottom, left, right, up, over, above, below, beneath, rear, and front, may be used with respect to the drawings. These and similar directional terms are not to be construed to limit the scope of the disclosure. Furthermore, the disclosure, as illustrated and described herein, may be practiced in the absence of an element that is not specifically disclosed herein.

[0029] The following detailed description is merely exemplary in nature and is not intended to limit the application and uses. Furthermore, there is no intention to be bound by an expressed or implied theory presented herein. Throughout the drawings, corresponding reference numerals indicate like or corresponding parts and features.

[0030] As employed herein, the term “system” may refer to one of or a combination of mechanical and electrical actuators, sensors, controllers, application-specific integrated circuits (ASIC), combinatorial logic circuits, software, firmware, and/or other components that are arranged to provide the described functionality.

[0031] The use of ordinals such as first, second and third does not necessarily imply a ranked sense of order, but rather may distinguish between multiple instances of an act or structure.

[0032] Referring to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals correspond to like or similar components throughout the several Figures, FIGS. **1**, **2A**, and **2B**, consistent with embodiments disclosed herein, illustrate elements of a vehicle **100** having a steering wheel **21**, an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) **40** and an embodiment of a steering system, which may be a steer-by-wire steering system **15** (FIG. **2A**) or a rack-and-pinion steering system **115** (FIG. **2B**), wherein the steering system **15**, **115** includes a collaborative steering subsystem **300**. Details related to the collaborative steering subsystem **300** are described with reference to FIGS. **3**, et seq.

[0033] The vehicle **100** may include, but not be limited to a mobile platform in the form of a commercial vehicle, industrial vehicle, agricultural vehicle, passenger vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, train, all-terrain vehicle, personal movement apparatus, robot, and the like to accomplish the purposes of this disclosure. Furthermore, embodiments of the vehicle **100** may include vehicles employing wheels, tracks, propellers and rudders, etc., to effect traction, braking, and steering functions.

[0034] The term “steering wheel” is employed to describe a device that is employed by a driver or operator to input or command an intended direction of travel for the vehicle **100**. It is to be appreciated that the steering wheel may be replaced by a joystick, a tiller, a steering clutch, or another device within the scope of the disclosure.

[0035] Referring again to FIG. **1**, the vehicle **100** is disposed on and able to traverse a travel surface such as a paved road surface. The vehicle **100** includes, in one embodiment, a vehicle operating system **10**, passenger cabin, spatial monitoring system **30**, ADAS **40**, navigation system **50**, human/machine interface (HMI) **60**, telematics system **70**, and vehicle monitoring system **80**.

[0036] The vehicle operating system **10** is composed of a propulsion system **11**, a braking system **12**, a suspension system **14**, and a steering system in the form of a steer-by-wire steering system **15** (FIG. **2A**) or a rack-and-pinion steering system **115** (FIG. **2B**) and a steering wheel **21**. Operations of the various elements of the vehicle operating system **10** are controlled by one or multiple controllers in response to operator inputs to operator controls **25** including the steering wheel **21**.

[0037] The steering system **15**, **115** includes a steering controller **18** and a steering actuator **19**. The steering actuator **19** is coupled to one or multiple steerable wheels **16** of the vehicle **100**. The steering actuator **19** is controlled by the steering controller **18**, and is monitored by one or multiple sensors that generate steering system parameters **13** that correspond to road wheel angle, etc. The steering controller **18** executes control elements of the collaborative steering subsystem **300**, which includes a steering control routine **350** having a model predictive controller (MPC) **400** (described with reference to FIG. **3**, et seq.). The collaborative steering subsystem **300** employs operator input to steering wheel **21** to determine a driver steering command **322**. The driver steering command **322** in collaboration with a second steering command **342** from the ADAS **40** are input to a steering control routine **350** with model predictive controller (MPC) **400** to determine a steering angle command **17** for controlling the steering actuator **19** and thus control the steerable wheel(s) **16** to a desired road wheel angle.

[0038] The passenger cabin includes steering wheel **21**, a plurality of operator controls, and one or a plurality of communication devices including a visual display system associated with HMI system **60**. The operator controls may include, by way of non-limiting examples, an accelerator pedal, a brake pedal, a turn signal indicator, a suspension selection switch, a transmission range selector (PRNDL), a cruise control actuator, an ADAS actuator, a parking brake, and/or other operator-controlled devices in addition to the steering wheel **21**.

[0039] The plurality of communication devices **26** may include an audio system with at least one speaker and at least one microphone, one or a plurality of haptic devices disposed in a driver seat bottom and/or a seat back, and a multicolor illumination bar disposed on the steering wheel **21**. The visual display system **24** may be arranged as an electronic visual display device, e.g., a touchscreen that is capable of electronic presentation of still images, text, and/or video in black-and-white and/or color formats. The visual display system **24** includes one or more of a driver information center display screen, a heads-up display, vehicle interior lighting, left and right sideview mirrors, a rear-view mirror, etc. In one embodiment, the visual display system **24** is an electronic visual display module, e.g., a liquid crystal display (LCD) device having touch-screen capability.

[0040] The spatial monitoring system **30** includes, in one embodiment, one or a plurality of spatial sensors and systems that are arranged to monitor a viewable region that is peripheral to and proximal to the vehicle **100**, including forward, rearward, leftward, and rightward of the vehicle **100**, and a spatial monitoring controller. The spatial sensors may include, e.g., a video camera, a LiDAR sensor, a radar sensor, an ultrasound sensor, and/or another device, and are disposed on-vehicle to monitor at least a portion of the viewable region to detect proximate remote objects such as road features, lane markers, buildings, pedestrians, road signs, traffic control lights and signs, other vehicles, and geographic features that are proximal to the vehicle **100**. The spatial sensors may also include a video camera and/or another device that is disposed in-cabin to monitor the driver.

[0041] The navigation system **50** may include on-board and/or off-board maps and a global positioning system (GPS) sensor **83**. The navigation system **50** provides vehicle location information, travel route information, and point-to-point travel route execution information to a vehicle operator and to the ADAS **40**.

[0042] The HMI system **60** includes touchscreen(s), audio devices, haptic devices, and controller(s) that facilitate(s) communication, interaction, and control of the ADAS **40**, the spatial monitoring system **30**, the navigation system **50**, and the telematics system **70**. The HMI system **60** enables a vehicle operator to interact with and direct operation of the vehicle **100** in functioning to provide passenger communication, navigation, infotainment, environmental comfort, etc., and to gain access to recessed areas on-vehicle. Operator interface devices may include devices that are capable of transmitting a message.

[0043] The ADAS system **40** is configured to implement autonomous driving or advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) vehicle functionalities, employing inputs from the navigation system **50**, the spatial monitoring system **30**, the various elements of the vehicle operating system **10**, and the HMI system **60**. Such functionality may include an on-vehicle control system that is capable of providing a level of driving automation. The terms 'driver' and 'operator' describe the person responsible for directing operation of the vehicle **100**, whether actively involved in controlling one or more vehicle functions or directing autonomous vehicle operation.

[0044] Driving automation may include a range of dynamic driving and vehicle operations. Driving automation may include some level of automatic control or intervention related to a single vehicle function, such as steering, acceleration, and/or braking, with the driver continuously having overall control of the vehicle **100**. Driving automation may include some level of automatic control or intervention related to simultaneous control of multiple vehicle functions, such as steering, acceleration, and/or braking, with the driver continuously having overall control of the vehicle **100**. Driving automation may include simultaneous automatic control of vehicle driving functions that include steering, acceleration, and braking (via steering system **15**, propulsion system **11**, and braking system **12**, respectively) wherein the driver cedes control one or more of the vehicle driving functions of the vehicle **100** for a period of time during a trip. Autonomous vehicle functions may include, by way of non-limiting examples, an adaptive cruise control (ACC) operation, lane guidance and lane keeping operation, lane change operation, steering assist operation, object avoidance operation, parking assistance operation, vehicle braking operation, collision avoidance operation, vehicle speed and acceleration operation, vehicle lateral motion operation, etc.

[0045] The telematics system **70** includes a wireless telematics communication system capable of extra-vehicle communication, including communicating with a communication network **90** having wireless and wired communication capabilities. The extra-vehicle communications may include short-range vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communication and/or vehicle-to-everything (V2x) communication, which may include communication with an infrastructure monitor, e.g., a traffic camera. Alternatively, or in addition, the telematics system **70** may include wireless telematics communication systems that are capable of short-range wireless communication to a handheld device **72**, e.g., a cell phone, a satellite phone or another telephonic device. In one embodiment the handheld device **72** includes a software application that includes a wireless protocol to communicate with the telematics system **70**, and the handheld device **72** executes the extra-vehicle communication, including communicating with an off-board server via the wireless communication network. Alternatively, or in addition, the telematics system **70** may execute the extra-vehicle communication directly by communicating with the remote facility **95** via the communication network **90**.

[0046] The vehicle monitoring system **80** includes a plurality of sensors and calibrated routines that are arranged to monitor a plurality of operating parameters **82** of the vehicle operating system **10**, including, e.g., vehicle speed, acceleration, braking, yaw rate, roll, pitch, etc. In one embodiment, the vehicle monitoring system **80** includes a global positioning system (GPS) sensor **83** that is employed by the navigation system **50**.

[0047] In one embodiment, the vehicle monitoring system **80** includes an inertial measurement unit (IMU) **84**. The IMU **84** is an electronic device that employs one or more of a combination of accelerometers, gyroscopes, and magnetometers that are arranged to measure and report vehicle dynamics parameters such as specific force, angular rate, yaw, and orientation of the vehicle **100**.

[0048] The communication network **90** may include one or more of cellular communication **91**, satellite communication **92**, and cloud-based communication **93**, which are configured to effect communication with a remote facility **95**.

[0049] The steering system **15**, **115** includes steering actuator **19** that couples to one or multiple steerable wheels **16** of the vehicle **100**, with the steering actuator **19** being controlled by operator input to a steering wheel **21** in collaboration with a steering controller **18**. The steering controller **18** executes control elements of the collaborative steering subsystem **300**, which employs operator input to steering wheel **21** in collaboration with ADAS **40** to determine the steering angle command **17** for controlling the steering actuator **19** and thus control the steerable wheel(s) **16** to a desired road wheel angle. Further details are described with reference to FIGS. 2A

and 2B.

[0050] Referring now to FIG. 2A, with continued reference to the elements of FIG. 1, an embodiment of elements of the steer-by-wire steering system **15** are illustrated, including signal communication paths therebetween. The steer-by-wire steering system **15** includes steering wheel **21** and steering actuator **19**, which couples to the steerable wheel(s) **16** of the vehicle **100**. The steering wheel **21** generates a first steering command **42** that is communicated to the steering controller **18**. In one embodiment, the steering actuator **19** is an electric power steering device that is arranged as a steer-by-wire system. The plurality of vehicle sensors of the vehicle monitoring system **80** provide inputs to the ADAS **40**, which generates a second steering command **43** that is communicated to the steering controller **18**. The steering controller **18** executes elements of collaborative steering subsystem **300** to generate the steering angle command **17** that is employed to control the steering actuator **19** to control a steering angle of the steerable wheel(s) **16**, and thus control the direction of travel of the vehicle **100**.

[0051] Referring now to FIG. 2B, with continued reference to the elements of FIG. 1, another embodiment of elements of rack-and-pinion steering system **115** are illustrated, including signal communication paths therebetween. The rack-and-pinion steering system **115** includes steering wheel **21** and steering actuator **119**, which couples to the steerable wheel(s) **16** of the vehicle **100**. The driver steering command **22** is input to the steering actuator **119**, which generates first steering command **142** is communicated to the steering controller **18** and the ADAS **40**. In one embodiment, the steering actuator **119** is in the form of a controllable rack and pinion steering system. The plurality of vehicle sensors of the vehicle monitoring system **80** provide inputs to the ADAS **40**, which generates a second steering command **143** that is communicated to the steering controller **18**. The steering controller **18** includes the collaborative steering subsystem **300**, which generates the steering angle command **17** based upon the first steering command **142** and the driver steering command **22** (when present), which is employed to control the steering actuator **119** to control a steering angle of the steerable wheel(s) **16**, and thus control the direction of travel of the vehicle **100** in response thereto.

[0052] The term “controller” and related terms such as microcontroller, control unit, processor and similar terms refer to one or various combinations of Application Specific Integrated Circuit(s) (ASIC), Field-Programmable Gate Array (FPGA), electronic circuit(s), central processing unit(s), e.g., microprocessor(s) and associated non-transitory memory component(s) in the form of memory and storage devices (read only, programmable read only, random access, hard drive, etc.). The non-transitory memory component stores machine readable instructions in the form of one or more software or firmware programs or routines, combinational logic circuit(s), input/output circuit(s) and devices, signal conditioning and buffer circuitry and other components that may be accessed by one or more processors to provide a described functionality. Input/output circuit(s) and devices include analog/digital converters and related devices that monitor inputs from sensors, with such inputs monitored at a preset sampling frequency or in response to a triggering event. Software, firmware, programs, instructions, control routines, code, algorithms, and similar terms mean controller-executable instruction sets including calibrations and look-up tables. Each controller executes control routine(s) to provide desired functions. Routines may be executed at regular intervals, for example each 100 microseconds during ongoing operation. Alternatively, routines may be executed in response to occurrence of a triggering event.

[0053] Communication between controllers, actuators and/or sensors may be accomplished using a direct wired point-to-point link, a networked communication bus link, a wireless link, or another suitable communication link, including, e.g., an Ethernet link and a controller area network (CAN) link. Communication includes exchanging data signals in suitable form, including, for example, electrical signals via a conductive medium, electromagnetic signals via air, optical signals via optical waveguides, and the like. The data signals may include discrete, analog, or digitized analog signals representing inputs from sensors, actuator commands, and communication between controllers.

[0054] The term “signal” refers to a physically discernible indicator that conveys information, and may be a suitable waveform (e.g., electrical, optical, magnetic, mechanical or electromagnetic), such as DC, AC, sinusoidal-wave, triangular-wave, square-wave, vibration, and the like, which is capable of traveling through a medium. A parameter is defined as a measurable quantity that represents a physical property of a device or other element that is discernible using one or more sensors and/or a physical model. A parameter may have a discrete value, e.g., either “1” or “0”, or may be infinitely variable in value.

[0055] FIG. 3, described in context of an embodiment of the vehicle **100** of FIG. 1 and steering systems of FIGS. 2A and/or 2B, schematically illustrates elements of the collaborative steering subsystem **300**. The collaborative steering subsystem **300** employs operator input to the steering wheel **21** in collaboration with the ADAS **40** to determine the steering angle command **17** for controlling the steering actuator **19** and thus achieving a steering angle for the steerable wheel(s) **16** to control a direction of travel of the vehicle **100**.

[0056] The collaborative steering subsystem **300** operates to determine a weighted driver steering command **322** in collaboration the second steering command **342** from the ADAS **40**, which are employed to determine a steering angle command **17** for controlling the steering actuator **19** and thus control the steerable wheel(s) **16**.

[0057] Stated another way, the collaborative steering subsystem **300** for vehicle **100** includes a driver-controllable steering device, e.g., steering wheel **21** from which a driver steering command **22** is determined; steering actuator **19**, which is coupled to steerable wheel **16** of vehicle **100**; ADAS **40** including spatial monitoring system **30** and navigation system **50**; and steering controller **18**. The steering controller **18** is in communication with the steering wheel **21**, the steering actuator **19**, and the ADAS **40**. The steering controller **18** has the collaborative steering subsystem **300**, which includes the steering control routine **350** with model predictive controller (MPC) **400**. The collaborative steering subsystem **300** is executable to determine, via the ADAS **40**, a target path and a target trajectory **341** for the vehicle **100** based upon one or multiple inputs from the spatial monitoring system **30**, as well as inputs from the navigation system **50**, and in some instances and/or embodiments, inputs from extra-vehicle communications via the telematics system **70**. The target path and target trajectory are employed to determine a second steering command **342**. The steering control routine **350** determines, via the steering wheel **21**, the driver steering command **22**; determines, via the spatial monitoring system **30**, a plurality of external factors related to the target path and the target trajectory **341**; determines one (or first, leftward and second, rightward) weighted driver steering commands **322** (**322L**, **322R**) based upon the plurality of external factors and the driver steering command **22**; determines a second steering command **342** based upon the target path and trajectory **341**; and determines the steering angle command **17** based upon the driver steering command **22**, the weighted driver steering command(s) **322** (**322L**, **322R**), and the second steering command **342** that is derived from the target path and the target trajectory **341**. The steering control routine **350** commands the steering controller **18** to control the steering actuator **19** to control the steerable wheel **16** of the vehicle

100 responsive to the steering angle command **17**.

[0058] The steering control routine **350** also determines a driver requested offset (DRO) **360**, which is input to the ADAS **40**. The DRO **360** includes a DRO onset signal that is communicated to the ADAS **40** that requests a change or adaptation to the vehicle trajectory in response to a driver's command, i.e., the driver steering command **22**. The DRO **360** is governed by the following relationship:

[00001] $DRO_{Set} = TRUE \text{ if } \text{var}(u_{Driver} - u_{ref}) < k_{DRO} \text{ for } t > t_{DRO_{set}}$ [1] [0059] wherein: [0060] DRO.sub.Set represents a driver requested offset onset signal to planner to adapt trajectory to driver's command; [0061] DRO.sub.Reset represents a driver requested offset reset signal to planner; [0062] u.sub.ref represents a road wheel angle required to track reference trajectory from planner; [0063] var(u.sub.Driver-u.sub.ref) represents a variance of the difference between estimated driver's desired road wheel angle and road wheel angle required to track reference trajectory from planner; [0064] k.sub.DRO represents a variance threshold for setting driver requested offset signal; [0065] t.sub.DRO.sub.Set represents a minimum time threshold for setting driver requested offset signal; and [0066] t.sub.DRO.sub.Reset represents a minimum time threshold for resetting driver requested offset signal.

[0067] The relationship of EQ. 1 is employed to communicate a signal to path planning routine **340** to modify the trajectory of the vehicle.

[0068] The relationship of EQ. 2 (below) defines the DRO **360**, which may be employed in ADAS functions to adapt the steering angle command **17** in response to the driver steering command during functions such as lane keeping, lane centering, route following, and obstacle avoidance operations.

[0069] In this manner, the steering control routine **350** is able to modify, i.e., reduce the control authority of the ADAS **40** to allow the driver to have greater steering authority in one of or both of the first and second steering directions via the weighted driver steering command **322**. Alternatively, or in addition, the steering control routine **350** is able to modify, i.e., increase the control authority of the ADAS **40** to reduce the steering authority of the driver in one of or both of the first and second steering directions via the weighted driver steering command **322**.

[0070] The collaborative steering subsystem **300** generates, in one embodiment, the steering angle command **17**, which is input to a driver steering alert routine **500** for analysis to determine a need to generate a driver alert that may be communicated to the driver via elements of the HMI **60**. A non-limiting embodiment of the driver steering alert routine **500** is described with reference to FIG. 5.

[0071] The collaborative steering subsystem **300** generates, in one embodiment, a steering feel command **612**, which is input to a steering emulator routine **600** for controlling the driver-controllable steering device, e.g., steering wheel **21**. A non-limiting embodiment of the steering emulator routine **600** is described with reference to FIG. 6.

[0072] Referring again to FIG. 3, the collaborative steering subsystem **300** includes a driver command routine **320** and a path planning routine **340**, which provide the weighted driver steering commands **322** (**322L**, **322R**) and the second steering command **342** to the steering control routine **350**. The steering control routine **350** employs a model predictive controller (MPC) **400** to generate the steering angle command **17**, command the driver steering alert routine **500**, and execute a steering emulator routine **600** to control the collaborative steering subsystem **300**.

[0073] The path planning routine **340** is executed in the ADAS **40**, which determines the target path and target trajectory **341** for the vehicle **100**, employing inputs from the navigation system **50**, the spatial monitoring system **30**, the vehicle monitoring system **80**, and the telematics system **70**. The path planning routine **340** generates the second steering command **342** based upon the target path and target trajectory **341**, taking into account constraints that may be dictated by the adaptive cruise control (ACC) operation, lane guidance and lane keeping operation, lane change operation, steering assist operation, object avoidance operation, parking assistance operation, vehicle braking operation, collision avoidance operation, vehicle speed and acceleration operation, vehicle lateral motion operation, etc.

[0074] The driver command routine **320** determines the first steering command **322** based upon the driver steering command **22** that includes a driver input to the steering wheel **21** (or absence thereof), which may be adjusted to account for a plurality of external factors **310**. The plurality of external factors **310** includes activation (or deactivation) of an active driver assist mode **311**, a plurality of environmental factors **312**, a driver preference selection **313**, and one or a plurality of vehicle control factors **314**. The driver command routine **320** executes a weighting algorithm to determine a weighted driver steering command **322**.

[0075] The driver command routine **320** operates in accordance with the following relationship:

$$[00002] u_{driver} = \frac{1}{K_p} T_{driver} + (1 - \frac{K_a}{K_p}) u_{actual} \quad [2] \quad k_{db} = \begin{cases} \min(1, \alpha_{ramp} * (u_{Driver} - u_{db})) & \text{if } u_{Driver} > u_{db} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$V_{Driver} = \frac{1}{2} (u_{Driver} - u_{k=1})^2 W_D$ and $W_D = k_{db} * k_D$ [0076] wherein: [0077] u.sub.Driver represents estimated driver's desired road wheel angle, i.e., driver steering command; [0078] u.sub.actual represents actual road wheel angle; [0079] u.sub.k=1 represents MPC road wheel angle command for the first control horizon point; [0080] W.sub.D represents penalty weight for deviation between driver's command and MPC command; [0081] K.sub.p represents steering torque gain; [0082] K.sub.a represents alignment torque gain; [0083] T.sub.driver represents the driver torque command, i.e., the driver steering command **22**; [0084] k.sub.db represents driver steering command deadband gain factor; and [0085] k.sub.D represents driver steering command gain factor, influenced by the plurality of external factors.

[0086] The plurality of external factors **310** includes as follows.

[0087] The selection of the active driver assist mode **311** (or absence thereof) includes an indication of a driver selection of one or more of the autonomous vehicle functions via the ADAS **40**. The autonomous vehicle functions may include, by way of non-limiting examples, an adaptive cruise control (ACC) operation, lane guidance and lane keeping operation, lane change operation, steering assist operation, object avoidance operation, parking assistance operation, vehicle braking operation, collision avoidance operation, vehicle speed and acceleration operation, vehicle lateral motion operation, e.g., as part of the lane guidance, lane keeping and lane change operations, traffic signal detection and recognition, blind spot monitoring, pedestrian detection, etc.

[0088] The environmental factors **312** include, by way of non-limiting examples, distance(s) to perceived side threat(s) to the left and/or right of the vehicle **100**, distance(s) to perceived obstacle(s) in the target path and the target trajectory **341** of the vehicle **100**, vehicle traffic conditions, roadway configuration, surface conditions (rain, ice, snow, other), presence of a towed trailer, etc.

[0089] The driver preference selection **313** includes, by way of non-limiting examples: selection of one of a sport mode, an economy mode, or an off-road mode; and selection of two-wheel drive, four-wheel drive, or all-wheel drive.

[0090] The vehicle control factors **314** include, by way of non-limiting examples, vehicle position and trajectory errors in tracking the target path and the target trajectory **341**.

[0091] The weighted driver steering command **322** is determined based upon the driver steering command **22** that has been adjusted by the driver command routine **320** including accounting for the plurality of external factors **310**. This may include determination of a leftward driver steering command **322L** and a rightward driver steering command **322R**, which are based upon the environmental factors including, e.g., a perceived side threat(s) to the right and left sides of the vehicle **100**, respectively. As such, the plurality of external factors **310** may be employed to determine a first weighting function associated with a first steering direction, e.g., leftward driver steering command **322L** and a second weighting function associated with a second steering direction that is opposite to the first steering direction, e.g., rightward driver steering command **322R**.

[0092] The second steering command **342** for the vehicle **100** and the weighted driver steering command(s) **322** are provided as inputs to the MPC **400**, which is executed to determine a steering angle command **17** and a driver alert signal **117**. The steering angle command **17** is communicated to the steering controller **18**, which controls the steering actuator **19** coupled to steerable wheels **16** of the vehicle **100** based thereon. This may include communicating to the driver a need to actively steer the vehicle **100** via the steering wheel **21**.

[0093] FIG. **4** schematically illustrates elements of the MPC **400**, which includes a prediction model of the entire steering system, as controlled by both the driver and the MPC command, for employment by the MPC **400** in determination of its optimal control command. This includes a feedback regime to account for a collaborative effect to achieve the steering angle command **17**, using the weighted driver steering command **322** and the second steering command **342** as inputs.

[0094] The MPC **400** is an optimal control technique in which the calculated control actions minimize a cost function (V, EQ. 3) for a constrained dynamic system, i.e., the vehicle **100**, over a finite, receding, horizon. The MPC **400** employs a process model to predict future behaviors and optimize control parameters, e.g., the steering angle command **17**, to achieve the best performance. As described herein, the cost function V relates to the performance measure that is to be minimized or optimized, e.g., the steering angle command **17**, when applied to the collaborative steering subsystem **300**. As such, a prediction model of the entire steering system, as controlled by both the driver and the MPC command, is provided for employment by the MPC **400** in determination of an optimal control command.

[0095] The elements of the MPC **400** include inputs, constraints, and outputs. The inputs preferably include a reference trajectory, a driver steering input, and system feedback. The reference trajectory may be in the form of the target path and the target trajectory **341**, which is determined employing the navigation system **50** and the ADAS **40**, with inputs from the plurality of vehicle sensors of the vehicle monitoring system **80**. The driver steering input is in the form of the weighted driver steering command **322**. The system feedback includes parameters related to a current state of the vehicle **100**, including actual steering angle, wheel speeds, inertial measurements, etc. Examples of the constraints include steering angle limits, friction, obstacle detection, side threats, etc.

[0096] The MPC **400** uses the system model to simulate and optimize control signals within the constraints to operate the vehicle **100** to follow the target path and the target trajectory **341**.

[0097] Elements of the MPC **400** include a driver steering angle command estimator **410**, a lateral controller **420**, a steering angle dynamics routine **430**, a modelled weighting of the MPC and driver influence on the overall steering command **440**, and a modelled dynamic response of the steering actuator **450**. The driver steering angle command estimator **410** estimates a driver steering angle **415** based upon a driver steering torque **405** and feedback of an estimated steering angle **455** that is output from the steering angle dynamics routine **430**. The lateral controller **420** includes a dynamic model of the steering system **15**, which is executable to estimate an MPC steering angle **425** based upon the driver steering angle **415** and the estimated steering angle **455**. The driver steering angle **415** and the MPC steering angle **425** are input to the steering angle dynamics routine **430**. The modelled weighting of the MPC and driver influence on the overall steering command **440** imposes weighting factors to determine a modelled overall steering command from collaboration of the driver and MPC **445**, which is input to the modelled dynamic response of the steering actuator **450**, which may be in the form of a transfer function, to determine the estimated steering angle **455**.

[0098] The MPC **400** operates in accordance with the following relationships:

$$[00003] V = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^P \{ (y - y_{ref})^2 W_y + (u - u_{ref})^2 W_u + (u_k - u_{k-1})^2 W_{\Delta u} + \epsilon^2 W_{\epsilon} \} + \frac{1}{2} (u_{Driver} - u_{k=1})^2 W_D \quad [3] \text{ and}$$

$x_{k+1} = A_d x_k + B_d u_k + B_d u_{driver,k}$ [0099] wherein: [0100] V represents an MPC cost function, [0101] y represents vehicle trajectory; [0102] yref represents a reference trajectory; [0103] u.sub.Driver represents estimated driver's desired road wheel angle; [0104] u.sub.actual represents actual road wheel angle; [0105] u.sub.k=1 represents MPC road wheel angle command for the first control horizon point; [0106] W.sub.D represents penalty weight for deviation between driver's command and MPC command; [0107] W.sub.y represents a penalty weight for deviation between a predicted trajectory and a reference trajectory; [0108] W.sub.u represents a penalty weight for deviation between a predicted road wheel angle and a reference road wheel angle; [0109] W.sub.Δ represents a penalty weight for increments between road wheel angle commands; and [0110] W.sub.ε represents a penalty weight for slack variables.

[0111] The driver steering angle command estimator **410** may be determined in accordance with the following relationship:

$$[00004] T_{driver} = K_p (\delta_{driver} - \delta_{actual}) + K_a \delta_{actual} \quad [4] \quad \hat{\delta}_{driver} = \frac{1}{K_p} T_{driver} + (1 - \frac{K_a}{K_p}) \delta_{actual} \quad [5]$$

[0112] The lateral controller **420** may be determined in accordance with the following relationship:

[0113] The steering angle dynamics routine **430** may be determined in accordance with the following relationship:

$$[00005] \hat{\delta}_{cmd} = \frac{w_{driver} \hat{\delta}_{driver} + w_{MPC} \delta_{MPC}}{w_i} \quad [6] \text{ and}$$

$$\dot{\delta}_{actual} = \frac{\hat{\delta}_{cmd} - \delta_{actual}}{\tau} = \frac{w_{driver}}{w_i} \hat{\delta}_{driver} + \frac{w_{MPC}}{w_i \tau} \delta_{MPC} - \frac{\delta_{actual}}{\tau} = \frac{w_{driver}}{w_i \tau} (\frac{1}{K_p} T_{driver}) + \frac{1}{\tau} (\frac{w_{driver}}{w_i} (1 - \frac{K_a}{K_p}) - 1) \delta_{actual} + \frac{w_{MPC}}{w_i \tau} \delta_{MPC} \quad [7]$$

[0114] wherein: [0115] {circumflex over (δ)}.sub.driver represents an estimated driver's desired road wheel angle; [0116]

δ .sub.actual represents an actual road wheel angle; [0117] K.sub.p represents a steering torque gain; [0118] K.sub.a represents an alignment torque gain; [0119] $\{\text{circumflex over } (\delta)\}$.sub.cmd represents an approximated total road wheel angle command; [0120] δ .sub.MPC represents an MPC road wheel angle command; [0121] W.sub.driver represents a driver command weight; [0122] W.sub.MPC represents an MPC command weight; [0123] $\{\text{dot over } (\delta)\}$.sub.actual represents a rate of change of road wheel angle; [0124] τ represents a time constant; and [0125] T.sub.driver represents the driver torque command, i.e., the driver steering command **22**.

[0126] The foregoing relationships described with reference to EQS. 6 and 7 may be resolved employing linear equations to optimize the cost function, and thus improve the predictability of the approximated total road wheel angle command based upon the collaborative effort to achieve the steering angle command **17**, using the weighted driver steering command **322** and the second steering command **342** as inputs.

[0127] For a vehicle steering application, the MPC **400** can use a dynamic model of the steering system **15** along with the target path and the target trajectory **341**. Real-time feedback of steering angle and vehicle positions are fed to the MPC **400**. The MPC **400** calculates the steering angle command **17** to steer the vehicle **100** along the target path and the target trajectory **341**, accounting for constraints that may be related to vehicle dynamics and other factors.

[0128] The utilization of the MPC **400** for vehicle steering enables anticipation of future deviations off the trajectory, facilitating early, optimized corrective action, including steering control inputs that take into consideration vehicle dynamics, the desired trajectory, driver inputs and system constraints, left/right weighting factors, driver preferences, presence of obstacles in the travel path, etc. Furthermore, the ADAS **40** may provide an enhanced reference trajectory for the MPC **400** using the plurality of vehicle sensors of the vehicle monitoring system **80**, cameras, radar, LiDAR, etc., of the spatial monitoring system **30**, high-definition maps that are employed by the navigation system **50**, and V2X communication via the telematics system **70**. The ADAS **40** may also set other constraints based on road conditions and speed limits.

[0129] The estimated steering angle **455** is output by the steering control routine **350** to minimize trajectory error and achieve path tracking for the vehicle **100**. It may be employed to override or augment driver inputs that may otherwise inadvertently send the vehicle **100** off the desired path, and/or avoid a collision on the desired path. This enables functions like lane centering and crash avoidance.

[0130] In operation, at each time step, the collaborative steering subsystem **300** receives or estimates the current state of the vehicle **100**. The MPC **400** calculates the sequence of control actions that minimizes the cost over the horizon by solving a constrained optimization problem that relies on an internal plant model and depends on the current state. The collaborative steering subsystem **300** applies to the steering system **15** the first computed control action and disregards the following ones. The process repeats in each subsequent time step.

[0131] Referring again to FIG. 3, the estimated steering angle (shown as element **455** in FIG. 4) is output by the steering control routine **350** as the steering angle command **17**, which is communicated to the steering controller **18** for controlling the steering actuator **19** coupled to steerable wheels **16** of the vehicle **100** in response.

[0132] The steering control routine **350** also generates the driver alert signal **117**, which is input to driver steering alert routine **500**.

[0133] FIG. 5 schematically illustrates, with continued reference to an embodiment of the vehicle **100** and the collaborative steering subsystem **300**, elements of an embodiment of the driver steering alert routine **500**, which may include communicating to the driver a need to actively steer the vehicle **100** via the steering wheel **21** under some operating conditions.

[0134] The driver steering alert routine **500** includes a constraint violation check **510**, a driver intervention request **520A**, and an MPC intervention notification **520B**.

[0135] The constraint violation check **510** employs predictive **350** information from the MPC **400** via the steering control routine **350**. The MPC **400** predicts vehicle motion over prediction horizon and performs optimization to minimize violation to the imposed constraints. The degree of constraint violation after optimization may be used by the constraint violation check **510** directly. Other inputs **505** include operation and control parameters derived from the steering actuator **19** coupled to steerable wheel **16** of vehicle **100**, the advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) **40** including spatial monitoring system **30** and navigation system **50**, the steering controller **18**, and V2X communication via the telematics system **70**, taking into account the second steering command **342** from the ADAS **40** and the driver steering command **322**.

[0136] The constraint violation check **510** operates to detect occurrence of a constraint violation **512** of the vehicle trajectory and/or the target path and the target trajectory **341** over a horizon based upon the steering angle command **17** from the collaborative steering subsystem **300** and the other inputs **505**. Examples of a constraint violation **512** of the target path and/or the target trajectory **341** over the horizon may include a lateral deviation, a rate of lateral deviation, a heading angle, a yaw rate, etc. that exceeds a respective threshold.

[0137] When the constraint violation check **510** indicates there is no pending or existing constraint violation and the driver is actively controlling vehicle steering (**512**), one or more of the plurality of communication devices **26** may be employed to communicate an MPC intervention request to the driver **550** via one or more of the plurality of communication devices **26** (**514**). The one or more of the plurality of communication devices **26** may include a colored light bar on a top portion of the steering wheel **21**. When the MPC is in process of taking control of vehicle steering, the colored light bar may be controlled to illuminate to a blue color (**26B**), and when the MPC has taken control of vehicle steering, the colored light bar may be controlled to illuminate to a green color (**26G**), with the collaborative steering subsystem **300** generating the driver steering command **22**.

[0138] When the constraint violation check **510** indicates presence of a constraint violation (**516**), one or more of the plurality of communication devices **26** may be employed to communicate a driver intervention request to the driver **550** (**518**), wherein the driver steering command **22** is generated by input of the driver **550** to the steering wheel **21**. The colored light bar on the top portion of the steering wheel **21**. When there is an urgent need for driver steering intervention, the colored light bar may be controlled to illuminate to a red color (**26R**), and when there is a non-urgent need for driver intervention, the colored light bar may be controlled to illuminate to a yellow color (**26Y**). In one embodiment, an urgent need for driver steering intervention is defined as indicating an imminent likelihood of a collision with an obstacle. In one embodiment, a non-urgent need for driver steering intervention is defined as indicating a likelihood of a collision with an obstacle in the near future. A path tracking error **517** is provided as input to the driver command routine **320**.

[0139] In this manner, the driver steering alert routine **500** is able to generate a warning to a driver in advance of a control violation in the form of a lateral deviation, a lateral deviation rate, a yaw rate, and/or a heading angle, which allows the driver to proactively control operation of the vehicle in a timely manner. This may include adjusting the weight of path tracking error proportional to the distance to violation on the horizon. The driver is warned via the plurality of communication devices **26** with either a yellow colored warning lamp or a red colored warning lamp based on if the violation is close or far on the horizon, respectively. Furthermore, after clearing constraint violations, the steering control routine **350** may take control of steering of the vehicle **100** by reducing effect of a driver input to the steering system. This may include reducing a driver steering command by lowering the weight of a path tracking error over a calibratable period of time. Over this period of time the driver is warned with a blue colored warning lamp. Once the weights have been properly adjusted, a green colored warning lamp may be illuminated.

[0140] FIG. **6** schematically illustrates elements of an embodiment of the steering emulator routine **600** for controlling the driver-controllable steering device, e.g., steering wheel **21**. The steering emulator routine **600** relates to and is described with reference to an embodiment of the vehicle **100**, steering system **15** including the steer-by-wire system described with reference to FIG. **2A**, and the collaborative steering subsystem **300**.

[0141] The steering emulator routine **600** employs the steering controller **18**, steering actuator **19**, and collaborative steering subsystem **300** including the steering control routine **350** to generate, via emulator **610**, a steering wheel torque command **612** that is employed to control the steering wheel **21** to provide a torque resistance in response to the driver steering command **22** in the form of driver applied torque. The steering control routine **350** generates the steering angle command **17** as described herein based at least in part upon the driver steering command **22** including the driver applied torque. The collaborative steering subsystem **300** also provides a steering torque trigger **23**.

[0142] The steering angle command **17** is input to the steering controller **18** to control the steering actuator **19**, which determines a desired steering wheel angle **614** based upon a predetermined calibration that correlates desired steering wheel angle **614** and the steering angle command **17**.

[0143] The emulator **610** determines the steering wheel torque command **612** based upon the desired steering wheel angle **614**, the driver steering command **22**, and the steering torque trigger **23**, and the steering wheel torque command **612** is employed to control the steering wheel **21** in response thereto.

[0144] In this manner, a collaborative steering system may be implemented in a steer-by-wire system. The system consists of collaborative steering trajectory tracking control loop and collaborative steering feel adjustment loop. In the collaborative steering trajectory tracking control loop, desired road wheel angle is determined by the steering control routine **350** using driver applied torque. This command is sent to the steer-by-wire controller, which controls the road wheel and provides feedback to the steering feel adjustment loop on the desired steering wheel angle. In the steering feel adjustment loop, the driver applied torque is processed by a steering feedback function, which generates a trigger to command the emulator to compute a hand wheel torque overlay using the driver applied torque and the desired steering wheel angle.

[0145] Furthermore, the concepts provide an architecture and associated method to provide a driver command adaptation logic for different driving assist feature modes. Depending on the nature of the active feature mode such as hands-on/off or continuous/intermittent driving assist, driver command dead-band and driver torque to angle mapping are modified to adjust the amount of driver steering effort to deviate from the driving assist control action. Active feature mode also modifies the amount and duration of the driver command offset to be detected before requesting planning to adjust the path or trajectory through driver requested offset signal. Depending on the active feature mode, driver requested offset (DRO) is withdrawn immediately or after duration when no active driver command is detected.

[0146] Furthermore, the concepts provide an architecture and associated method to adapt driver command based upon the steering controller interface. For torque-based steering controller, the MPC steering angle command is first converted to steering torque command before sending to the steering controller. For angle-based steering controller, the MPC steering angle command is sent to the steering controller directly.

[0147] Furthermore, the concepts provide an architecture and associated method to automatically adjust the weighting (importance) of driver's steering input in MPC based on driver's preference (selected mode), control tracking performance, environmental conditions and driving scenarios. Depending on the environmental conditions, the weight adjustment can either apply to one side or both sides of the steering direction. This provides an asymmetric or symmetric driving feel when the driver deviates from the MPC steering command. The weight adjustment is giving asymmetric feeling depending on different situations.

[0148] Furthermore, the concepts provide an architecture and associated method to improve the MPC prediction model by accounting for the collaborative effect of the driver and MPC on the steering wheel angle. The driver's desired steering angle is estimated using the current angle and applied torque, which is then used to approximate total steering angle in combination with MPC steering command. The steering actuator response to the total commanded steering angle is then modeled and incorporated into the prediction model.

[0149] The flowchart and block diagrams in the flow diagrams illustrate the architecture, functionality, and operation of possible implementations of systems, methods, and computer program products according to various embodiments of the present disclosure. In this regard, each block in the flowchart or block diagrams may represent a module, segment, or portion of code, which comprises one or more executable instructions for implementing the specified logical function(s). It will also be noted that each block of the block diagrams and/or flowchart illustrations, and combinations of blocks in the block diagrams and/or flowchart illustrations, may be implemented by dedicated-function hardware-based systems that perform the specified functions or acts, or combinations of dedicated-function hardware and computer instructions. These computer program instructions may also be stored in a computer-readable medium that may direct a computer or other programmable data processing apparatus to function in a particular manner, such that the instructions stored in the computer-readable medium produce an article of manufacture including instruction set that implements the function/act specified in the flowchart and/or block diagram block or blocks.

[0150] The detailed description and the drawings or figures are supportive and descriptive of the present teachings, but the scope of the present teachings is defined solely by the claims. While some of the best modes and other embodiments for carrying out the

present teachings have been described in detail, various alternative designs and embodiments exist for practicing the present teachings defined in the claims.

Claims

1. A steering system for a vehicle, comprising: a driver-controllable steering device; a power steering actuator coupled to a steerable wheel; an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) including a spatial monitoring system; and a steering controller; wherein the steering controller is in communication with the steering device, the power steering actuator, and the ADAS; the steering controller including a collaborative steering subsystem, the collaborative steering subsystem being operative to: determine, via the steering device, a driver steering command; determine, via the ADAS, a target path and a target trajectory for the vehicle based upon an input from the spatial monitoring system; determine a second steering command based upon the target path and the target trajectory for the vehicle; determine, via the spatial monitoring system, a plurality of external factors related to the target path and the target trajectory; determine a weighted driver steering command based upon the plurality of external factors and the driver steering command; determine, via a steering control routine, a steering angle command based upon the weighted driver steering command and the second steering command; and control the power steering actuator to control the steerable wheel responsive to the steering angle command.
2. The steering system of claim 1, wherein the power steering actuator comprises a steer-by-wire steering system.
3. The steering system of claim 1, wherein the power steering actuator comprises a rack-and-pinion steering system.
4. The steering system of claim 1, further comprising a navigation system, wherein the steering control routine is executable to determine, via the ADAS, the target path and a target trajectory for the vehicle based upon the input from the spatial monitoring system and an input from the navigation system.
5. The steering system of claim 1, wherein the collaborative steering subsystem being operative to determine the weighted driver steering command based upon the plurality of external factors comprises the steering control routine being operative to: determine a first weighting factor associated with a first steering direction based upon the plurality of external factors; determine a second weighting factor associated with a second steering direction that is opposite to the first steering direction based upon the plurality of external factors; and determine the weighted driver steering command based upon the driver steering command, the first weighting factor for the driver steering command, and the second weighting factor for the driver steering command.
6. The steering system of claim 5, further comprising the steering control routine being operative to modify the second steering command in response to the weighted driver steering command and the second steering command.
7. The steering system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of external factors related to the target path and the target trajectory comprises a distance to a perceived side threat to the vehicle, or a distance to a perceived obstacle in the target path of the vehicle.
8. The steering system of claim 1, further comprising the steering control routine including a driver steering alert routine operable to detect occurrence of a constraint violation of the target path or target trajectory for the vehicle, and communicate a control action to the driver based upon the constraint violation.
9. The steering system of claim 1, further comprising the steering control routine including a steering emulator routine operable to generate a steering wheel torque command, wherein the steering wheel torque command is employed to control the steering wheel to provide a torque resistance in response to the driver steering command.
10. The steering system of claim 1, wherein the steering control routine executes a model predictive controller routine (MPC) to determine the steering angle command based upon the driver steering command, a weighting factor for the driver steering command, and the plurality of external factors.
11. A method for steering of a vehicle having an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS), the method comprising: equipping the vehicle with a driver-controllable steering device, a power steering actuator coupled to a steerable vehicle wheel, a spatial monitoring system, and a navigation system; determining, via the steering device, a driver steering command; monitoring, via the spatial monitoring system, an area that is proximal to the vehicle; determining, via a navigation system, travel route information; determining, via the ADAS, a target path and a target trajectory for the vehicle based upon an input from the spatial monitoring system and the travel route information from the navigation system; determining a second steering command based upon the target path and the target trajectory; determining, via the spatial monitoring system, a plurality of external factors related to the target path and the target trajectory; determining a weighted driver steering command based upon the plurality of external factors; determining a steering angle command based upon the weighted driver steering command and the second steering command; and controlling the power steering actuator to control the steerable wheel responsive to the steering angle command.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the power steering actuator comprises a steer-by-wire steering system.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the power steering actuator comprises a rack-and-pinion steering system.
14. The method of claim 11, wherein determining the weighting factor for the driver steering command based upon the plurality of external factors comprises: determining a first weighting factor associated with a first steering direction; determining a second weighting factor associated with a second steering direction that is opposite to the first steering direction; and determining the weighted driver steering command based upon the driver steering command, the first weighting factor for the driver steering command, and the second weighting factor for the driver steering command.
15. The method of claim 14, further comprising executing a model predictive controller routine (MPC) to determine the weighted driver steering command based upon the driver steering command, the first weighting factor for the driver steering command, and the second weighting factor for the driver steering command.
16. The method of claim 11, wherein determined the plurality of external factors related to the target path and the target trajectory comprises determining one of a distance to a perceived side threat to the vehicle or a distance to a perceived obstacle in the target path of the vehicle.
17. The method of claim 11, further comprising detecting occurrence of a constraint violation of the target path or target trajectory for the vehicle, and communicating a control action to the driver based upon the constraint violation.
18. The method of claim 11, further comprising generating, via a steering emulator routine, a steering wheel torque command that is

employed to control the steering wheel to provide a torque resistance in response to the driver steering command.

19. A method for controlling steering on a vehicle, the method comprising: equipping the vehicle with a driver-controllable steering device, a power steering actuator coupled to a steerable vehicle wheel, an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) including a spatial monitoring system, and a navigation system; determining, via the ADAS and the navigation system, a target path and a target trajectory for the vehicle; determining a second steering command based upon the target path and the target trajectory for the vehicle; determining, via the steering device, a driver steering command; determining, via the spatial monitoring system, a plurality of external factors related to the target path and the target trajectory; determining a weighted driver steering command based upon the plurality of external factors; executing a model predictive controller routine (MPC) to determine a steering angle command based upon the weighted driver steering command, the target path, and the target trajectory; and controlling the power steering actuator to control the steerable wheel responsive to the steering angle command.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising: determining a first weighting factor associated with a first steering direction; determining a second weighting factor associated with a second steering direction that is opposite to the first steering direction; and determining the weighted driver steering angle command based upon the driver steering command, the first weighting factor for the driver steering command, the second weighting factor for the driver steering command, and the driver steering command.
