

Energy-Aware Dynamic Mission Planning Algorithm for UAVs

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Abstract—abstract

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I. INTRODUCTION

Planning a mission for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) operating outdoors is a challenging task. Scenarios such as precision agriculture, search and rescue, and surveillance require advanced levels of autonomy but have limited energy budgets. A typical example would be a UAV used to inform its ground-based actors of patterns detected while flying. Currently, UAVs flying outdoors are often semi-autonomous, in the sense that the mission is static and usually defined using mission planning software [1]. Such a state of practice has prompted us to propose an *energy-aware dynamic mission planning algorithm* for UAVs. The algorithm combines and generalizes some of the past body of knowledge on mobile robot planning problems, and addresses the increasing *computational demands* and their relation to energy consumption, path, and autonomy.

Planning algorithms for mobile robots are a related to topics such as trajectory generation and path planning. Generally, these algorithms select an energy-optimized trajectory [2], e.g., by maximizing the operational time [3], but in practice apply to few robots [4], and focus on optimizing motion control for these robots [5], despite compelling evidence for the energy consumption also being influenced by on-board computations and not only bare motion [6]. For UAVs specifically, rotorcrafts have gained interest in terms of algorithms for energy-optimized trajectory generation [7], [8]. Mission planning algorithms, which includes a broader concept of a mission being a set of tasks along with a motion

plan, all focus on the trajectory [6], [9] and apply to few robots [10], [11]. Given the availability of powerful GPU-equipped mobile hardware, the use of on-board computations is expected to increase in the near future.

The proposed algorithm alters the energy consumption dynamically by means of mission-specific parameters: the Quality of Service (QoS) of the on-board computations, and the trajectory-explicit equations (TEEs) adjustments. In the remainder of the paper, we adopt the following notation. We refer to the values of mission-specific QoS and TEEs parameters as computations and adjustments, we refer to the constraints sets that delimit such computations and adjustments as QoS and TEEs sets, and we refer to the current trajectory as TEE. Our goal is to complete the mission with highest possible computations and adjustments as the UAV flies and its batteries drain. The algorithm both optimizes computations in the form of robot operating system (ROS) nodes, and it optimizes adjustments—a way to alter the trajectory—guiding the UAV using a vector field [12] that converges smoothly to such trajectory. It relies on the assumptions of the mission being *periodic* and *uncertain*. Periodicity is often observed, e.g., when the UAV is flying in repetitive patterns for a monitoring or search and rescue mission. Uncertainty accounts for the environmental interference, e.g., a fixed-wing UAV drifting due to windy weather. The algorithm addresses the periodicity by modeling the energy with Fourier analysis: the mission is periodic, so we expect the energy to also approximately evolve periodically. The uncertainty is addressed with a state estimator. The algorithm outputs the control input (adjustments and computations) using output model predictive control (MPC).

In the spirit of reducing costs and resources, we showcase the algorithm using the problem of dynamic mission planning for a precision agriculture fixed-wing UAV. Such a scenario is often put into practice [13] with ground mobile robots used for harvesting [14]–[19], and UAVs for preventing damage and ensuring better crop quality [1], [20]. The mission is structured as follows. Trajectory-wise, the UAV flies in circles and lines covering a polygon. Computationally-wise, it detects obstacles using a convolutional neural network (CNN), and informs grounded mobile robots employed for harvesting. The algorithm plans the mission controlling the processing rate and the radius of the circles (affecting the distance between the lines). Figure 1 shows an initial slice of such a mission. The UAV first heads to a circular TEE with a given radius, which is later reduced as, e.g., windy weather requires the adjustment of the control input to avoid battery depletion. Computations significantly impact the battery, with a potential extension of up to 13 minutes

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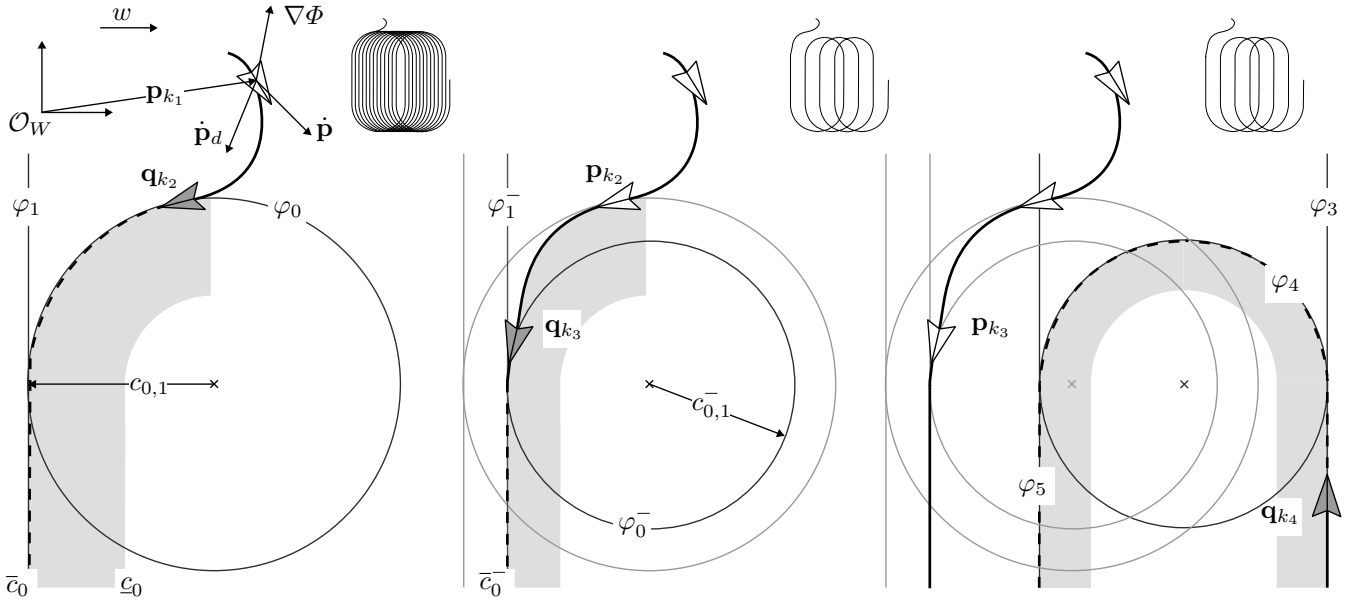


Fig. 1. The mission consists of circles and lines covering a polygon. The UAV heads to φ_0 initially, using the desired velocity vector $\dot{\mathbf{p}}_d$. It later heads to φ_0^- reducing the radius $c_{0,1}$ to satisfy the battery constraints (indeed the energy coefficients \mathbf{q}_{k_2} evolution is higher than \mathbf{q}_{k_3}). The UAV then converges to φ_1 in stage \mathcal{M}_1 , φ_2 in stage \mathcal{M}_2 , and so on (the circle φ_2 is not visible in the figure; it connects φ_1 and φ_3).

over an hour by merely switching to the lowest computations (see Section IV).

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. The overview of dynamic mission planning is set in Section II, along with a suitable model for the position and energy. The algorithm that uses the model and solves the UAV dynamic mission planning problem is proposed in Section III. Section IV presents the result and showcase the performances. The paper finishes with some conclusions in Section V.

II. MISSION PLANNING OVERVIEW

We assume that the mission consists of different stages. At each stage the robot must follow a path and do some tasks.

Let the path at stage i be characterized by a generic continuous twice differentiable TEE $\varphi_i : \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^\rho \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and the tasks by functions $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_\sigma : \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. Moreover, let $[a]$ be the set $\{0, 1, \dots, a\}$, $[a]^+$ the set $[a] \setminus \{0\}$, $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \rangle$ an ordered list of n elements, and \underline{c}, \bar{c} the lower and upper bound of the parameter c retrieved from a lookup table.

Definition II.1 (Stage and mission). A stage \mathcal{M}_i at time instant k of a mission \mathcal{M} is defined as the ordered list

$$\mathcal{M}_i := \{ \langle \varphi_i(\mathbf{p}_k, c_{i,1}, \dots, c_{i,\rho}), \psi_1(s_{i,1}), \dots, \psi_\sigma(s_{i,\sigma}) \rangle \mid \exists \mathbf{p}_k, \varphi_i(\mathbf{p}_k, c_{i,1}, \dots, c_{i,\rho}) \in \mathcal{C}_i, \psi_j(s_{i,j}) \in \mathcal{S}_{i,j} \forall j \in [\sigma]^+ \}, \quad (1)$$

where $\mathcal{C}_i := [\underline{c}_i, \bar{c}_i] \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ is the TEEs set, and $\mathcal{S}_{i,j} := [\underline{s}_{i,j}, \bar{s}_{i,j}] \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ the j -th task QoS set. $\mathbf{p}_k := (x, y)$ is a point of a UAV flying at an assigned altitude $h \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ w.r.t. some inertial navigation frame \mathcal{O}_W . The parameters of the TEE φ_i are the point and the adjustments (Subsection II-A). The parameters of the tasks $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_\sigma$ are the computations (Subsection II-C).

The mission is then $\mathcal{M} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_i$ a function which maps the point \mathbf{p}_k to a specific stage \mathcal{M}_i .

For simplicity the system is sampled in discrete time. The algorithm takes as input \mathcal{M} , initial position, and energy coefficients guess, and outputs the new position, the instantaneous energy consumption, and the control input—an action performed evolving the mission state.

A. State: position and energy

The state is the UAV's position in space and the energy coefficients in time. We show a linear relation between the instantaneous energy consumption and the energy coefficients in Theorem III.1, but the two are different. We show after the main results how this approach allows us variability in terms of the systems behaving periodically, piece-wise periodically, or merely linearly with sporadic periodicity.

The set

$$\mathcal{P}_i := \{ \mathbf{p}_k \mid \varphi_i(\mathbf{p}_k, c_{i,1}, \dots, c_{i,\rho}) \in \mathcal{C}_i \}, \quad (2)$$

delimits the area where the i -th TEE φ_i is free to evolve using ρ adjustments $\mathbf{c}_i := c_{i,1}, \dots, c_{i,\rho}$ (the gray area in Figure 1).

The algorithm uses the set from Equation eq:area to select the optimal adjustments \mathbf{c}_i^0 s.t. $\varphi_i(\mathbf{p}_k, \mathbf{c}_i^0)$ has the highest instantaneous energy consumption under the battery constraints. It guides the UAV to the new position \mathbf{p}_{k+1} computing the vector field of the function $\Phi := \varphi_i(\mathbf{p}_k, \mathbf{c}_i^0)$. It uses the vector field $\nabla \Phi := (\partial \Phi / \partial x, \partial \Phi / \partial y)$ to derive the direction to follow in the form of velocity vector

$$\dot{\mathbf{p}}_d(\mathbf{p}_k) := E \nabla \Phi - k_e \Phi \nabla \Phi, \quad E = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (3)$$

where E specifies the tracking direction, and $k_e \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ the gain to adjust the speed of convergence. The direction the

velocity vector $\dot{\mathbf{p}}_d$ is pointing at is generally different from the course heading due to the atmospheric interference, such as wind ($w \in \mathbb{R}$ in Figure 1).

The algorithm models the energy using as state energy coefficients $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ derived from Fourier analysis (the size of the energy coefficients vector m is related to the order of a Fourier series) and decomposes the evolution in energy due to the trajectory and computations. This approach is adapted from our earlier work on computational energy analysis [21], [22], and energy estimation of a fixed-wing UAV [23].

B. Energy evolution due to trajectory

Let us consider a Fourier series of an arbitrary order $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ for the purpose of energy consumption modeling of the mission

$$h(k) = \sum_{i=0}^r a_i \cos(ik/\xi) + b_i \sin(ik/\xi), \quad (4)$$

where $h : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ maps time to the modeled instantaneous energy consumption, $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$ is the fundamental frequency, and $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ the Fourier series coefficients.

Suppose there is no state and output uncertainty (the contributions $\mathbf{w}_k \in \mathbb{R}^m, v_k \in \mathbb{R}$ are zero). The non-linear model in Equation (4) can be expressed using an equivalent linear discrete time-invariant state-space model

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{q}_{k+1} &= A\mathbf{q}_k + B\mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{w}_k, \\ y_k &= C\mathbf{q}_k + v_k, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where $y_k \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is the instantaneous energy consumption. The state \mathbf{q} mimics the original Fourier series coefficients

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{q}_k &= [\alpha_0 \quad \alpha_1 \quad \beta_1 \quad \cdots \quad \alpha_r \quad \beta_r]^T, \\ A &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ & A_1 & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & A_r & \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & i/\xi \\ -i^2/\xi^2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ C &= [1 \quad 1 \quad 0 \quad \cdots \quad 1 \quad 0], \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where $\mathbf{q}_k \in \mathbb{R}^m$ given $m = 2r + 1$, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ is the state transmission matrix, and $C \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is the output matrix. In matrix A , the top left entry is one, the diagonal entries are defined by A_1, \dots, A_r , and zero the remaining entries are zero.

Suppose at time instant k the mission reached stage i and the control input is $\mathbf{u}_k^a := \langle \mathbf{c}_k, \mathbf{s}_k \rangle$. The control along with the input matrix

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_k &= [g(\mathbf{s}_k) - g(\mathbf{s}_{k-1}) \quad \mathbf{c}_k - \mathbf{c}_{k-1}]^T, \\ B &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \omega_{i,1} & \cdots & \omega_{i,\rho} \\ 0 & & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where $\mathbf{s}_k, g(\mathbf{s}_k)$ are the computations and the instantaneous computational energy consumption (Subsection II-C), $\mathbf{u}_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the control given $n = 1 + \rho$, and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. Moreover, the top-left entry of B is one, while the others on the first row

are gain factors $\Omega_i := \{\omega_{i,1}, \dots, \omega_{i,\rho}\} \in \mathbb{R}^\rho$, quantifying the contribution of a given adjustment to the instantaneous energy consumption.

Equation (7) accounts for the energy due to the adjustments and computations. The difference $g(\mathbf{s}_k) - g(\mathbf{s}_{k-1})$ quantifies the change in the instantaneous computational energy consumption. Similarly, $\Omega_i(\mathbf{c}_k - \mathbf{c}_{k-1})$ quantifies the change in the instantaneous trajectory energy consumption. For instance, when the TEE φ_0 is a circle (see Figure 1), a decrement in the adjustment radius of the circle $c_{0,1}$ adds a negative contribution. It thus simulates the lowering of instantaneous energy consumption $\omega_{0,1}(c_{0,1} - c_{0,1}^-) < 0$.

Note from Equation (7) that the control input \mathbf{u}_k^a differs from the nominal control \mathbf{u}_k in Equation (5). The first is an output of the algorithm. The second is a function that maps two consecutive control inputs to the difference in instantaneous energy consumption $\mathbf{u}_k : \mathbb{R}^{2\rho} \times \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^{2\sigma} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\rho+1}$.

The energy consumption modeling of the mission necessitates the following assumption.

Assumption II.1 (Energy evolution periodicity). Given two time instants k_1, k_2 s.t. $k_1 > k_2$ and a constant value $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$

$$|y_k - y_{k+n}| \in \mathbb{E} \subset \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \quad \forall k \in [k_1, k_2]. \quad (8)$$

Physically this means that the time evolution of the instantaneous energy consumption is assumed to be approximately periodic.

C. Energy evolution due to computations

The energy cost of the computations (the set of tasks being executed on an embedded board on the UAV) is assessed using `powprofiler`, an open-source modeling tool presented in our previous work [21]. The tool measures the instantaneous computational energy consumption of software components within the QoS sets. It builds an energy model: a linear interpolation, one per each task. In a ROS based system, it requires the user to implement one or more ROS nodes changing the computational load by node-specific ROS parameters. The approach has been tested in simulation in our previous work [24].

Specifically, the mission \mathcal{M} contains a set of ordered lists with tasks (recall Definition II.1). These tasks are implemented by software components (such as ROS nodes) $\Psi(\mathbf{s}_i) := \langle \psi_1(s_{i,1}), \dots, \psi_\sigma(s_{i,\sigma}) \rangle$. They input the desired and output the actual computations

$$\mathbf{s}_i := \{ \langle s_{i,1}, \dots, s_{i,\sigma} \rangle \mid \psi_j(s_{i,j}) \in \mathbb{S}_i \forall j \in [\sigma]^+ \}, \quad (9)$$

where $s_{i,j} : \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ returns the j -th desired computation at stage i , $\mathbf{s}_i \in \mathbb{S}_i \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^\sigma$ the union of all QoS sets given $\mathbb{S}_i := \bigcup_{j \in [\sigma]^+} \mathbb{S}_{i,j}$.

For instance, if the task ψ_1 is a CNN object detector, $s_{1,1}$ corresponds to the computation frames-per-second (fps) rate changing the detection frequency. The algorithm output the control input which contains the desired fps rate $s_{1,1} \in \mathbb{S}_{1,1}$. The task $\psi_1(s_{1,1})$ output the actual fps rate $s_{k,1}$ which might differ from the desired one (e.g., the CNN object detector

might not be able to reach a high fps rate with the current computational resources).

Let us further define $g: \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^{\sigma} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ as the actual instantaneous computational energy consumption value obtained using `powprofiler`

$$y_k^s := g(\Psi(s_i)) = g(s_k). \quad (10)$$

Moreover, $g(\{\emptyset\}) = 0$.

III. ALGORITHM

Given l stages \mathcal{M}_i (TEE φ_i , tasks Ψ , computations $s_i \in \mathbb{S}_i$, and adaptations $c_i \in \mathbb{C}_i$) for all $i \in [l]$, the main purpose of the algorithm is to output a control input sequence $\mathbf{u}^a := \{\mathbf{u}_0^a, \mathbf{u}_1^a, \dots\}$ in a valid mission.

Definition III.1 (Valid mission). A mission is valid if for every stage \mathcal{M}_{i-1} , $i \in [l]^+$ there exist a control input \mathbf{u}_k^a that produce the next stage \mathcal{M}_i

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_k^a &= \{(\mathbf{c}_k, \mathbf{s}_k) \mid \exists n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}, \\ &\langle \varphi_{i-1}(\mathbf{p}_{k-n}, \mathbf{c}_{k-n}), \Psi(\mathbf{s}_{k-n}) \rangle \in \mathcal{M}_{i-1} \\ &\implies \langle \varphi_i(\mathbf{p}_k, \mathbf{c}_k), \Psi(\mathbf{s}_k) \rangle \in \mathcal{M}_i\}. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Let us proof that if the mission is valid, the instantaneous energy consumption can be modeled as linear combination of the state from the Equation (5).

Theorem III.1 (Periodic energy model). Consider the mission from Definition II.1, the valid mission from III.1. Assume Assumption II.1 holds, the model of Equation (5) behaves ideally ($\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}, v = 0$), the initial energy coefficients state \mathbf{q}_0 is y_0^a/m for the first coefficient where $y_0^a \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ is an initial measurement¹, $(1/2)y_0^a/m$ for all the others, and the mission is valid. Then, the instantaneous energy consumption y_k is a linear combination of the state \mathbf{q}_k .

Proof. The proof is based on mathematical induction. Base case: we proof that $y_0 = y_0^a$. Recall the definition of the state in Equation (6). The output is $y_0 = \alpha_{0,0} + \alpha_{0,1} + \dots + \alpha_{0,r} = y_0^a/m + (1/2)y_0^a/m + \dots + (1/2)y_0^a/m = y_0^a$.

Induction step: by inspection of Equation (5), the output at instant k can be expressed $y_k = (\alpha_{0,0} + B\mathbf{u}_0 + \dots + B\mathbf{u}_{k-1}) + p_1(k)\alpha_{0,1} + \dots + p_r(k)\alpha_{0,r}$, where $\forall t \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 2}$

$$p_r(t) := \begin{cases} \prod_{i=1}^{t/2} r^3/\xi^3 & \text{for even } t \\ (r/\xi) \prod_{i=1}^{(t-1)/2} r^3/\xi^3 & \text{for odd } t \end{cases}. \quad (12)$$

Suppose k is even and the theorem holds up to k . Initial energy coefficients state \mathbf{q}_0 leads to $y_k = (y_0^a/m + B\mathbf{u}_0 + \dots + B\mathbf{u}_{k-1}) + p_1(k)(1/2)y_0^a/m + \dots + p_r(k)(1/2)y_0^a/m = y_k^a$.

We prove now that the instantaneous energy consumption at $k+1$ is still a linear combination of the state. We express the output in function of the previous state $y_{k+1} = (\alpha_{0,0} + B\mathbf{u}_0 + \dots + B\mathbf{u}_k) + (1/\xi)\beta_{0,1} + \dots + (r/\xi)\beta_{0,r}$. Notice that the coefficients α, β have an equivalent evolution (indeed this allows to simulate the periodicity) and $\beta_{k,r} = p_r(k)\beta_{0,r}$.

¹ y_0^a can be the initial measurement or the measurement from a previous instance of the algorithm

Thus, the output can be expressed $y_{k+1} = (\alpha_{0,0} + B\mathbf{u}_0 + \dots + B\mathbf{u}_k) + (1/\xi)p_1(k)\beta_{0,1} + \dots + (r/\xi)p_r(k)\beta_{0,r}$. The expression is equivalent to $y_{k+1} = (\alpha_{0,0} + B\mathbf{u}_0 + \dots + B\mathbf{u}_k) + p_r(k+1)\beta_{0,r} + \dots + p_r(k+1)\beta_{0,r}$ using the definition of p_r in Equation (12). Again, the state \mathbf{q}_0 leads to $y_{k+1} = (y_0^a/m + B\mathbf{u}_0 + \dots + B\mathbf{u}_k) + p_r(k+1)(1/2)y_0^a/m + \dots + p_r(k+1)(1/2)y_0^a/m = y_{k+1}^a$, alike the previous statement, but at instant $k+1$. The proof for odd k is equivalent. ■

A. Output constraints set

We stated earlier the output y_k —the instantaneous energy consumption—evolves in $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$. This is generally untrue. Physical UAVs are bounded by strict battery limitations.

Let us hence consider the state of charge (SoC) of such battery with a simplistic difference equation [23]

$$\text{SoC}_k = - \left(V - \sqrt{V^2 - 4R_r \tilde{V} y_k V^{-1}} \right) / 2R_r Q_c, \quad (13)$$

where $V \in \mathbb{R}$ is the internal battery and $\tilde{V} \in \mathbb{R}$ the stabilized voltage, $R_r \in \mathbb{R}$ the resistance, and $Q_c \in \mathbb{R}$ the constant nominal capacity. We define the output constraints set

$$\mathbb{Y}_k := \{y_k \mid y_k \in [0, \text{SoC}_k Q_c V] \subseteq \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}\}, \quad (14)$$

and $\max \mathbb{Y}_k$ is the maximum discharge capacity by the internal battery voltage—the maximum instantaneous energy consumption.

B. Deployment algorithm

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1: procedure STEP( $\mathbf{q}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_{k-1}^a, \mathbf{u}_{k-2}^a, P_{k-1}$ )
2:    $\mathbf{u}_{k-1} \leftarrow \mathbf{u}_{k-1}^a (\max \mathbf{u}_{k-1}^a, \mathbf{u}_{k-2}^a)$ 
3:    $\mathbf{u}_{k-1}^0 \leftarrow \arg \max_{\mathbf{u}} \sum_{i=k-1}^{k+N-2} l(\mathbf{q}_i, \mathbf{u}_i) + V_f(\mathbf{q}_{k+N-1})$ 
4:    $\hat{\mathbf{q}}_k^- \leftarrow A\hat{\mathbf{q}}_{k-1} + B\mathbf{u}_{k-1}^0$ 
5:   if  $C\hat{\mathbf{q}}_k^- \notin \mathbb{Y}_k$  then
6:      $\mathbf{u}_{k-1}^a \leftarrow \mathbf{u}_{k-1}^a / \{\max \mathbf{u}_{k-1}^a\}$ 
7:     return STEP( $\mathbf{q}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_{k-1}^a, \mathbf{u}_{k-2}^a, P_{k-1}$ )
8:   else
9:     if  $|y_k^a - C\hat{\mathbf{q}}_k^-| \leq \varepsilon$  then
10:       $\hat{\mathbf{q}}_k \leftarrow \hat{\mathbf{q}}_k^-$ 
11:       $P_k \leftarrow P_k^-$ 
12:    else
13:       $P_k^- \leftarrow AP_{k-1}A^T + Q$ 
14:       $K \leftarrow P_k^- C^T / (CP_k^- C^T + R)$ 
15:       $\hat{\mathbf{q}}_k \leftarrow \hat{\mathbf{q}}_k^- + K(y_k^a - C\hat{\mathbf{q}}_k^-)$ 
16:       $P_k \leftarrow (I + KC)P_k^-$ 
17:    end if
18:     $\mathbf{u}_k^a \leftarrow \mathbf{u}_{k-1}^a$ 
19:    return ( $\hat{\mathbf{q}}_k, P_k, \mathbf{u}_k^a$ )
20:  end if
21: end procedure

22: procedure EADMPA( $\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{p}_0, \mathbf{q}_0$ )
23:    $k \leftarrow 0$ 
24:    $\mathbf{u}_{k-1}^a \leftarrow \{\emptyset\}$ 
25:    $\mathbf{p}_k \leftarrow \mathbf{p}_0$ 
26:    $\mathbf{q}_k \leftarrow \mathbf{q}_0$ 
27:   while  $k \leq t_f$  do
28:      $\mathbf{u}_k^a \leftarrow \{\mathbf{u}_k^a \mid (\varphi_i(\mathbf{p}_k, \mathbf{c}_i), \Psi(\mathbf{s}_i)) \in \lambda(\mathbf{p}_k)\}$ 

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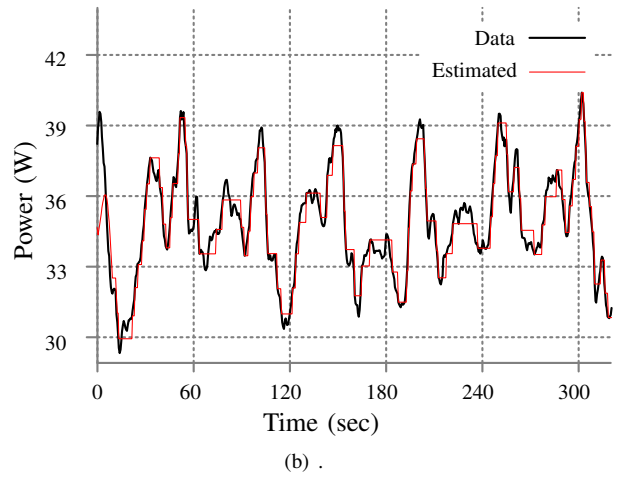
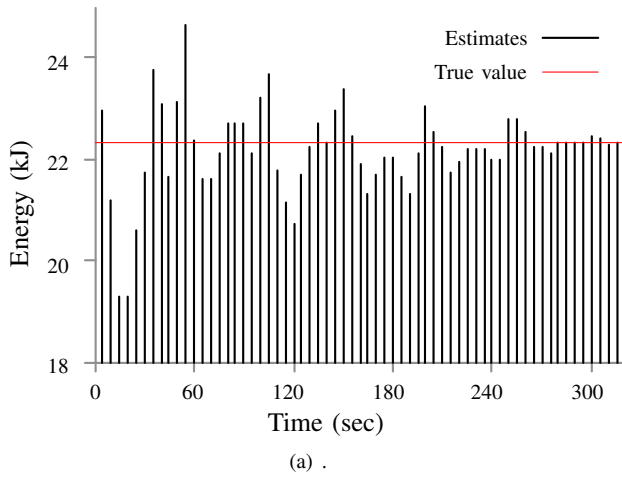


Fig. 2.

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29:    $(\mathbf{q}_k, P_k, \mathbf{u}_k^a) \leftarrow \text{STEP}(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{u}_k^a, \mathbf{u}_{k-1}^a, P_k)$ 
30:    $\mathbf{p}_k \leftarrow \mathbf{p}_k \dot{\mathbf{p}}_d(\mathbf{p}_k)/v$ 
31:    $\mathbf{u}_{k-1}^a \leftarrow \mathbf{u}_k^a$ 
32:    $k \leftarrow k + 1$ 
33: end while
34: end procedure

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Per each time step k (the final time t_f is unknown), the algorithm updates the state—the position at line 30 and the energy coefficients at line 29—and the control input. Note that the position can be computed directly from Equation (3). If the velocity is $v \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, and the starting point \mathbf{p}_0 , $\mathbf{p}_{k+1} = \mathbf{p}_k \dot{\mathbf{p}}_d(\mathbf{p}_k)/v$.

In detail, initial guess for $P_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{j \times j}$ is positive definite and derived empirically, for \mathbf{q}_0 the initial measurement is distributed to the coefficients (see Theorem III.1). Line 2 selects the maximum possible control from the current control input. Line 3 uses robust output feedback model predictive control (MPC) [25] to select the optimal control \mathbf{u}^0 for a given horizon $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ from the cost function

$$l(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) := (1/2)(\mathbf{q}_k^T Q \mathbf{q}_k + \mathbf{u}_k^T R \mathbf{u}_k), \quad (15)$$

$$V_f(\mathbf{q}_k) := (1/2)(\mathbf{q}_k^T P_f \mathbf{q}_k),$$

where matrices $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{j \times j}$, $R \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times l}$ are positive definite.

Follows a check if the mission can finish without the eventuality of battery discharge (output constraints satisfaction) at line 5, with the control input being eventually updated and the process reiterated at line 7.

Before the next step, state estimator—the discrete-time Kalman filter [26] at lines 13–16—predicts the state \mathbf{q} if the modeled instantaneous energy consumption diverges from the sensor's value y_k^a more than a given $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, or sensor measurements are unavailable ($y_k^a = 0$).

IV. RESULTS

In this section

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V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

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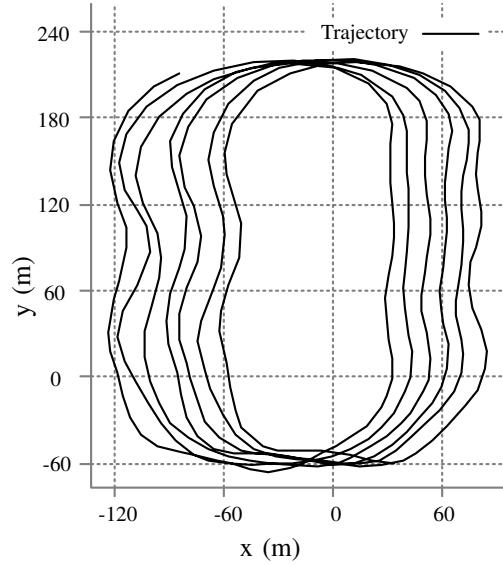


Fig. 3.

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