Robotics Studio 4: Quadrotor three – Progress Update I

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**I. Introduction**

The quadrotor is a 4-rotor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), which contains of four rigidly attached rotors on the vehicle. Due to its unique rotor’s configuration, a control scheme for quadrotor can be synthesized to maneuver with four degrees of freedom. This maneuverability helps users accomplishing desired tasks in dangerous or inaccessible environment. To gain better understanding of control scheme and its application, our team proposes a project on simulating the physics and behavior of the quadrotor.

The scope of this project consists of the following:

1. The entire system will be developed only in computer-simulated environment.
2. The goal of the quadrotor is to vary its altitude and yaw angle, while maintaining minimum change in lateral position.
3. The input from the user interface is the desired altitude and forward direction of the quadrotor.
4. The control scheme provides 3-dimentional resultant torque and force along the rotational axis of the quadrotor.
5. All physical parameters of the quadrotor are constant and known.
6. At least two sensor types are equipped on the quadrotor: 6-axis IMU (3-axis accelerometer; and 3-axis gyroscope) and range sensor.
7. The simulation result is visualized as the movement in a 3D plane; graphs of position signal and rotation signal are plotted against time.

The model of quadrotor can be divided into 2 main parts: dynamics and kinematics model. For overview of quadrotor model, it was constructed in body frame, while state-space representation was defined in global frame. The controlling system of the quadrotor composes of 2 subsystems: attitude control, altitude control, and lateral flight control[1]. To create the closed-loop system, sensor models are added. In the real physical system, many uncertainties occur, such as model error and disturbance of surroundings. Therefore, the state estimation is required [1].

**II. Quadrotor Model & Control System**

To understand the essence of the quadrotor, we firstly created the quadrotor model and identified its control scheme.

1. *Kinematic Model of Quadrotor*

We utilized the knowledge of FRA333, kinematics, to find the pose and rotation matrix of the quadrotor.

* Rotation (Euler’s Angle)

To control the orientation of the quadrotor, we used Z-Y-X Euler angles to model its rotation in the global frame. In this report, the global frame, G, is defined by axes    with pointing upward [1]. The Body frame, B, is attached to the center of the mass of the quadrotor with pointing in the quadrotor forward direction, and perpendicular to the plane of rotors. Therefore, the rotation matrix transforming the global frame to the body frame is given by equation 3,

(3)

where is yaw angle, is pitch angle, is roll angle, and and denote .

Nevertheless, describing orientation in Z-Y-X Euler angles creates singularity issues and complexity while changing the frame reference. Therefore, besides the rotation matrix, all angular variables are in quaternion in this report.

* Orientation Kinematics (Quaternion)

From the research [1], the derivative of quaternion is given by the equation 1.

(1)

Therefore, the quaternion of the quadrotor can be found by integrating the derivative of quaternion as in figure 1.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

**Figure 1:** block orientation kinematic

Then, the integration was applied to find the quaternion.

* Position Kinematics

Likewise in angular position, the linear position can be found by integrating the input linear velocity.

1. *Dynamics Model of Quadrotor*

From the kinematics equation, to find the pose of the quadrotor, the velocity must be identified. The inputs of our quadrotor model are torque and force, respecting to global and body frame respectively. Therefore, before applying the dynamics equation, the input force must be transformed into the body frame. The rotation matrix is found by Z-Y-X Euler’s angles as we mentioned before with the parameters from calculated angular position.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

**Figure 2:** the overview of the quadrotor model

* Orientation Dynamics

The orientation dynamics of quadrotor can be described as equation 1.

(2)

Diagram

Description automatically generated

**Figure 3:** the Orientation Dynamics block

Then, the integration was applied to find the angular velocity.

* Position Dynamics

For the position dynamics of quadrotor, the derivative of linear velocity, linear acceleration, is calculated by using Newton’s second Law of motion.

(3)

Diagram

Description automatically generated

**Figure 4:**  the Position Dynamics block

Then, the integration was applied to find the linear velocity.

1. *Control System*

To control the created model, applied torque and force are calculated.

Diagram

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**Figure 5:** the overview of the hover control

* Lateral Flight

In this report, the quadrotor flight was controlled by a quintic polynomial trajectory leading to slight changes in position in the earliest stage. These insignificant changes will allow attitude control to perform synchronously with altitude control.

where, is the initial position

is the initial velocity

is the initial acceleration

is the desired position

is starting position

is the maximum acceleration

* Altitude Control

To control the applied force, we control it through acceleration. PID controller was applied to control the desired acceleration from the position error, .

(4)

where,  is a desired position vector.

is a current position vector.

is a current velocity vector.

Diagram

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**Figure 6:** the overview of Altitude Control block

* Attitude Control

The result of attitude control is desired torque with the orientation as the input. Before implementing attitude control scheme, the desired orientation is identified. According to project’s scope, yaw value was inputted through the desired forward direction. To find roll and pitch values, the linearization was applied to the equation 5.

(5)

**Linearization**

*Diagram, schematic

Description automatically generated*

**Figure 7:** the overview of Desire Angle block

The quaternion-based attitude control is used, where and are the quaternion error and angular velocity error, respectively.

(6)

**Figure 8:**  the overview of Attitude Control Block

To observe the result, we connect all blocks and visualize the movement in a 3D plane via MATLAB.Diagram

Description automatically generated

**Figure 9:** quadrotor model

Chart

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**Figure 10:** the visualization of quadrotor movement in a 3D plane

**III. Sensor Model & State-Space Estimation**

In the real physical system, all dependent variables are inputted from sensor, which leads to the occurrence of uncertainties.

1. *Sensor Model*

In this report, two sensor types are equipped on the quadrotor: 6-axis IMU (3-axis accelerometer; and 3-axis gyroscope) and range sensor (ultrasonic).

* Ultrasonic Sensor

Due to the possibilities of rotation in roll and pitch, the sensor equation can be described as follow,

*=*

Ultrasonic measures the length along its z axis. Therefore, the ultrasonic measured distance, , can be calculated as in equation 7.

(7)

where is the actual position vector along z axis .

is a measured position vector .

is a measured position vector along z axis

* Accelerometer

The accelerometer is equipped on the quadrotor, such that the measured acceleration, , is calculated in the body frame as in the following equation.

(8)

To find the quadrotor acceleration, , the Newton’s second laws is used.

Therefore,

(9)

where, is measured acceleration .

is a quadrotor generated acceleration vector.

is a propellers’ generated force .

is a propellers’ generated thrust.

is a measured acceleration along z axis.

* Gyroscope Sensor

Due to the quadrotor model, the torque will only apply around z axis, therefore the measured angular velocity around z axis, , is quadrotor angular velocity around z axis, .

Thus,

(10)

1. *Estimator*

The estimator constructs with 2 main parts: position estimator and orientation estimator. In position estimation, the Kalman Filter is used to estimate the quadrotor’s position, while the Extended Kalman Filter is used to estimate the orientation.

* Position Estimator

The estimation of position, velocity, and acceleration equation is in the discrete-time domain. The Kalman Filter can be described in equation 11.

(11)

where, is a state space of the quadrotor

is a input of the quadrotor

is a process noise of the quadrotor

is a measurement noise of the quadrotor

and are parameters

* Orientation Estimator

- Euler’s rate

find the angular velocity of each axis, =

From

The state space of the quadrotor orientation can be written as the equation 12.

From the equation 12, it is a non-linear equation. Therefore, the Extended Kalman Filter is used to estimate the quadrotor orientation

1. *Implementation*

* Position Estimation

In the model, we create the Kalman filter by inseting the Kalman filter block with the calculated parameters and set the sample rate to 100 Hz. To test the performance of the Kalman filter, the noise is added into the system.

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

**Figure 11:** the graph of position along z axis after adding noise and position estimator into the system.

* Orientation Estimation

The orientation Estimation is in the validating process. Therefore, the Orientation Estimation block is not yet created.

# **References**

[1] T. Choopojcharoen, “IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTROL & ESTIMATION OF QUADROTOR IN MATLAB”, 2016.

**Appendix A: Position State-Space Identification**

**Appendix B: Estimation of Kalman Filter’s Parameter**

**Appendix C: Orientation State-Space Identification**

**Planning Table**