

Making Flips with Quadrotors in Constrained Environments

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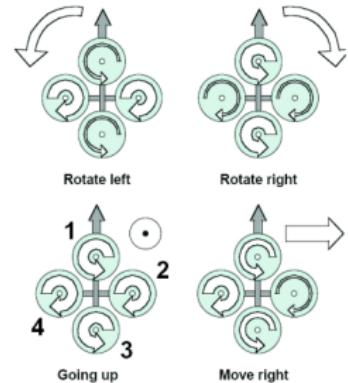


- ① Introduction
- ② System Modeling
- ③ Control of Quadrotors
- ④ Multi-Flip Maneuvers with Quadrotors
- ⑤ Trajectory Optimization
- ⑥ Planning
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(a) DJI Phantom quadcopter (UAV) [12].



(b) Quadrotor Concept. Width of the arrows is proportional to the angular speed of the propellers [1].

Figure: Commercial quadrtotor platform (left) and quadrotor concept (right).

Properties of the quadrotor:

- Under-actuated system.
- Controls all DOFs.

Remark

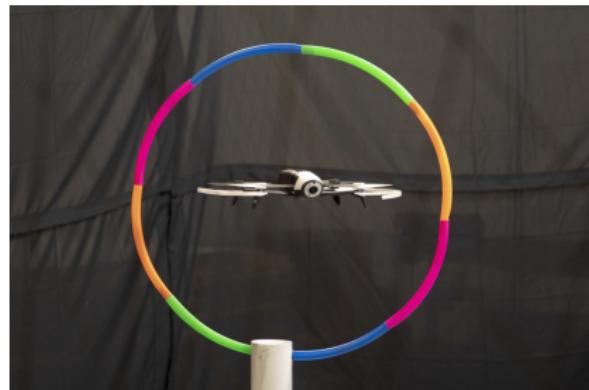
Rotational and translational dynamics are coupled.

Goal of the master thesis:

- Study of multi-flip maneuvers.
- Use different control methods.
- Performing the maneuvers in a constrained environment.



(a) Quadrotor performing a triple flip.[8]



(b) Quadrotor going through a loop [3].

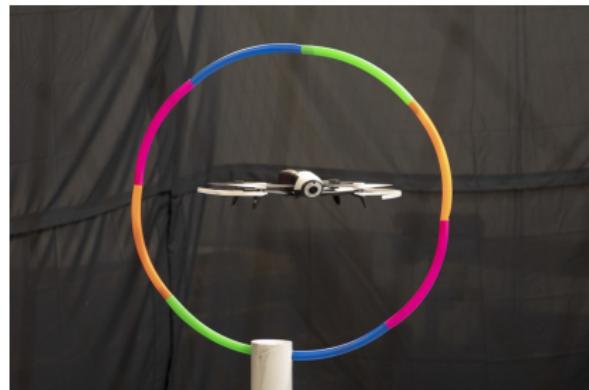
Figure: Representation of the issues to be tackled in this master thesis.

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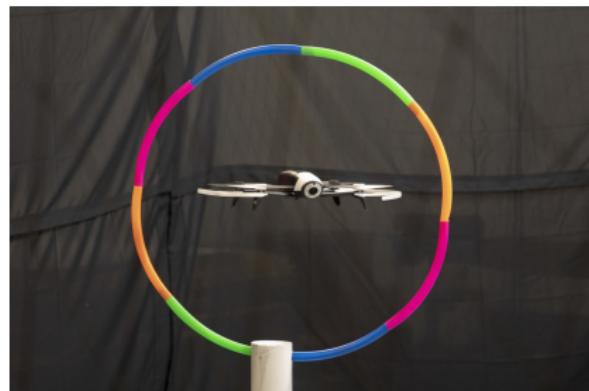
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Principal **forces** and **torques** are generated by the propellers' rotations.

- **Forces** - Decomposed into 2 parts:

- Weight.
- Resulting lift.

$$\vec{F}_\xi = \vec{P} + \sum \vec{f}_i \quad (1)$$

which results in [5]:

$$\vec{F}_\xi = {}^O \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -mg \end{bmatrix} + {}^U b \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \omega_1^2 + \omega_2^2 + \omega_3^2 + \omega_4^2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

- **Torques** - 2 parts:

- Relation between the velocities of the rotors.
- Gyroscopic effects due to the change of orientation direction of the rotors.

$$\tau = \tau_a + \tau_G \quad (3)$$

which results in [5]:

$$\tau = \begin{bmatrix} \tau_1 \\ \tau_2 \\ \tau_3 \end{bmatrix} = \tau_a + \tau_G = \begin{bmatrix} I(f_4 - f_2) - qJ_r(\omega_1 - \omega_2 + \omega_3 - \omega_4) \\ I(f_3 - f_1) + pJ_r(\omega_1 - \omega_2 + \omega_3 - \omega_4) \\ d(\omega_1^2 - \omega_2^2 + \omega_3^2 - \omega_4^2) \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

Motors are controlled with torques and thrust using 4 control inputs.

$$u_1 = u \text{ (thrust)}$$

$$u_2 = \tau_\phi$$

$$u_3 = \tau_\theta$$

$$u_4 = \tau_\psi$$

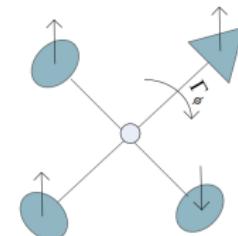
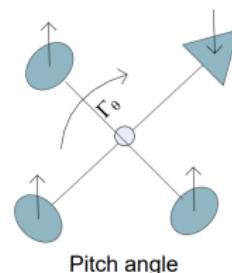
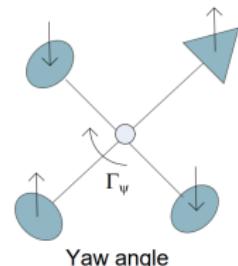
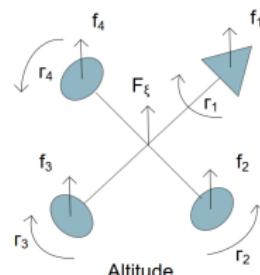


Figure: Quadrotor model with motor torques and Euler angles [5].

First, some assumptions are made:

- Rigid structure.
- Symmetric structure.
- CoG and origin of body-fixed frame coincide.
- Propellers are rigid.
- Thrust and drag are proportional to the square of the velocity of the propeller.

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The dynamic model:

- Computed using **Euler-Lagrange** or **Newton-Euler** formalism.
- Decomposed to 2 different parts [5]:
 - * Translational model:

$$\begin{cases} m\ddot{x} = (\sin \psi \sin \phi + \cos \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi)u \\ m\ddot{y} = (-\sin \phi \cos \psi + \sin \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi)u \\ m\ddot{z} = \cos \theta \cos \phi u - mg \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

- * Rotational model:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{p} = qr \frac{(I_3 - I_2)}{I_2} + \frac{1}{I_2}(f_4 - f_2) - \frac{1}{I_2} q J_r(\omega_1 - \omega_2 + \omega_3 - \omega_4) \\ \dot{q} = pr \frac{(I_2 - I_3)}{I_2} + \frac{1}{I_2}(f_3 - f_1) + \frac{1}{I_2} p J_r(\omega_1 - \omega_2 + \omega_3 - \omega_4) \\ \dot{r} = pq \frac{(I_3 - I_2)}{I_2} + \frac{1}{I_2} d(\omega_1^2 - \omega_2^2 + \omega_3^2 - \omega_4^2) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

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For small pitch and roll angles of order 2, a simplified dynamic model is obtained:

- **Translational** model:

$$\begin{cases} m\ddot{x} = (\phi \sin \psi + \theta \cos \psi)u \\ m\ddot{y} = (-\phi \cos \psi + \theta \sin \psi)u \\ m\ddot{z} = u - mg \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

- **Rotational** model:

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{\phi} = \dot{\theta}\dot{\psi}\frac{(I_{yy}-I_{zz})}{I_{xx}} + \frac{I}{I_{xx}}(f_4 - f_2) - \frac{1}{I_{xx}}\dot{\theta}J_r(\omega_1 - \omega_2 + \omega_3 - \omega_4) \\ \ddot{\theta} = \dot{\psi}\dot{\phi}\frac{(I_{zz}-I_{xx})}{I_{yy}} + \frac{I}{I_{yy}}(f_3 - f_1) + \frac{1}{I_{yy}}\dot{\phi}J_r(\omega_1 - \omega_2 + \omega_3 - \omega_4) \\ \ddot{\psi} = \dot{\theta}\dot{\phi}\frac{(I_{xx}-I_{yy})}{I_{zz}} + \frac{1}{I_{zz}}d(\omega_1^2 - \omega_2^2 + \omega_3^2 - \omega_4^2) \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

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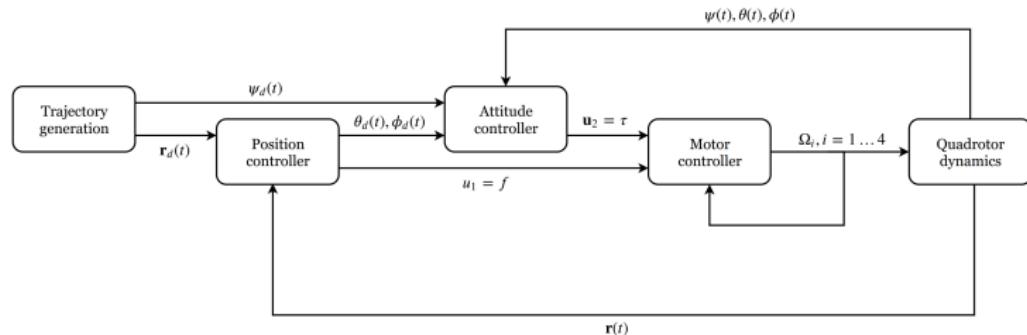


Figure: General control architecture for the position and attitude of a quadrotor [4].

- **Position controller:** drives translational dynamics errors to 0.
- **Attitude controller:** drives rotational dynamics errors to 0.
- **Motor controller:** receives the control inputs $\mathbf{u} = [f \quad \tau]^T$ and maps them to Ω_i^* for each rotor.

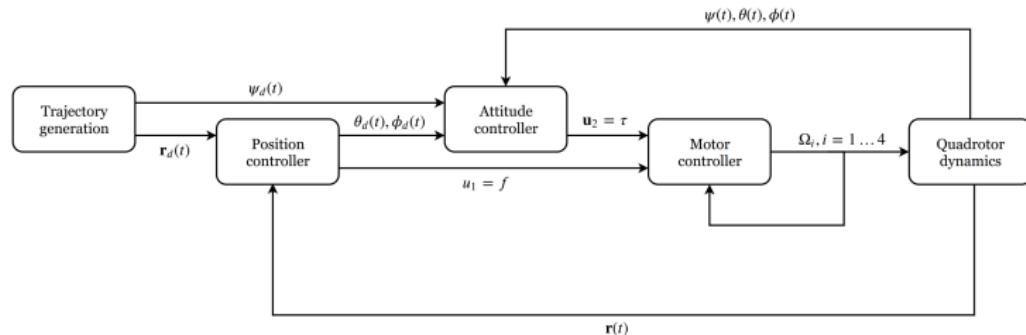


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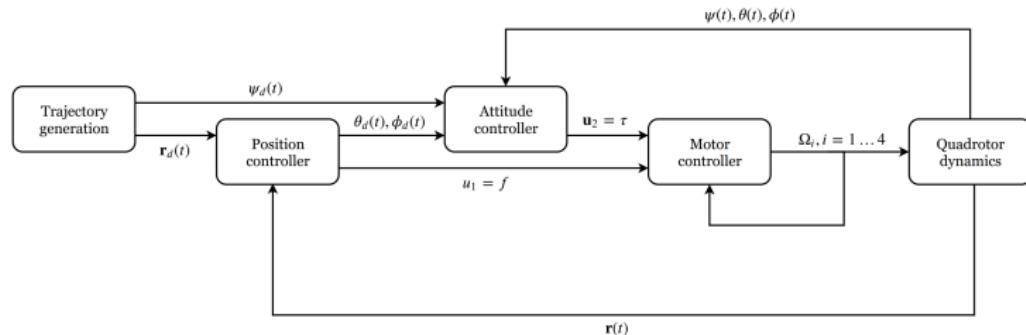


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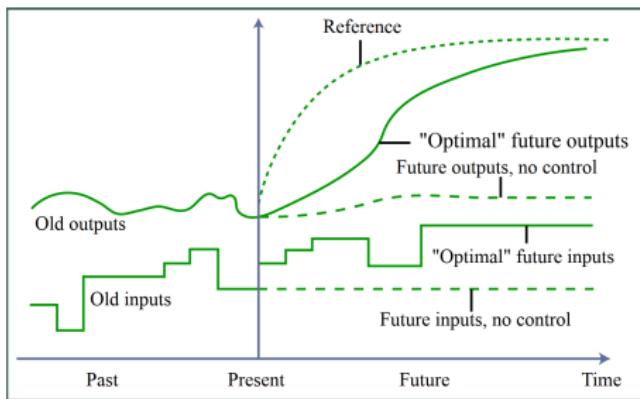


Figure: Basic idea of MPC [6].

- It is a **feedback control** algorithm.
- It uses a model to **precit** future outputs.
- It **solves an online optimization problem** to select the optimal control.

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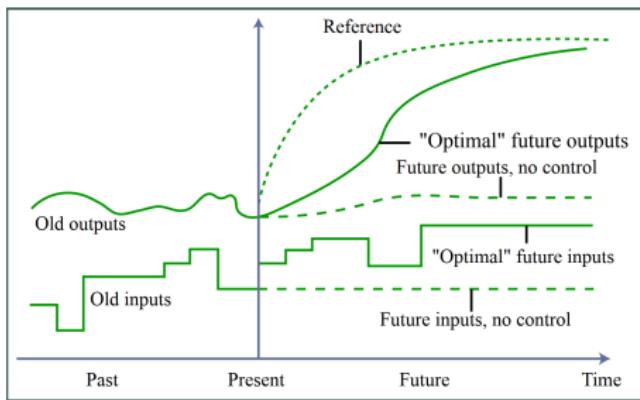


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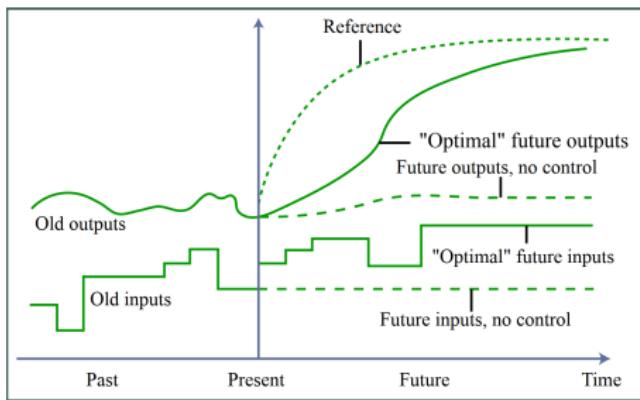


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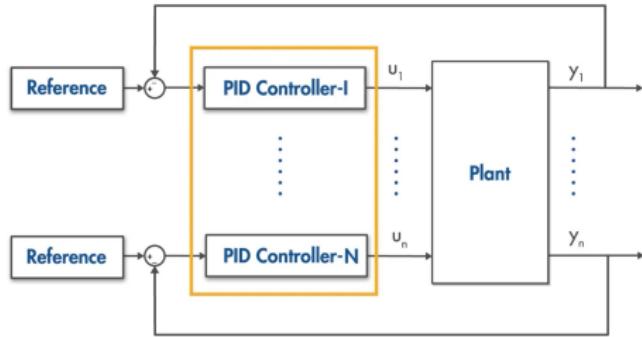


Figure: MIMO system with PIDs [10].



Figure: MIMO system with MPC controller [10].

- Can **control MIMO** systems.
- Explicitly accounts for constraints.
- Can handle nonlinear and time-varying plant dynamics.

Remark

MPC requires a **powerful, fast** processor with a **large** memory.

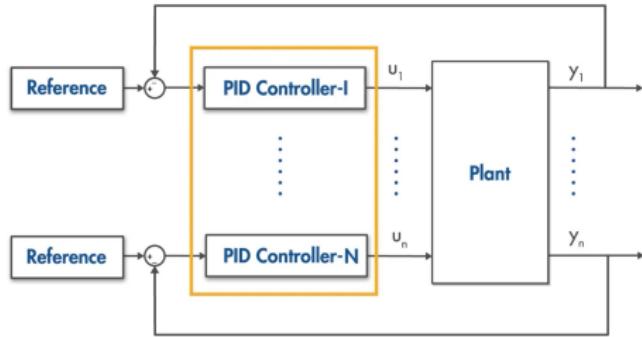


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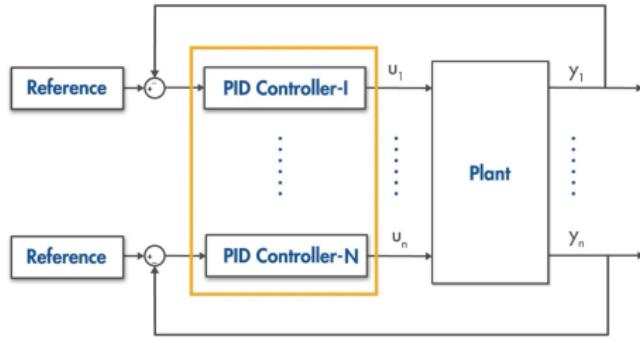


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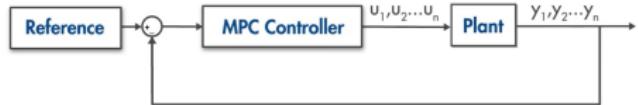


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MPC Design parameters:

- Sample time
- Prediction horizon
- Control horizon
- Constraints
- Weights

Choosing proper values for these parameters is important as they affect:

- The controller performance.
- The computational complexity of the MPC algorithm.

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General MPC methods:

- Linear time-invariant MPC.
- Adaptive MPC.
- Gain-Scheduled MPC.
- Nonlinear MPC.

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In Adaptive MPC:

- A linear model is computed on the fly as the operating conditions change.
- At each time step, the internal plant model used by the MPC is updated with this linear model.

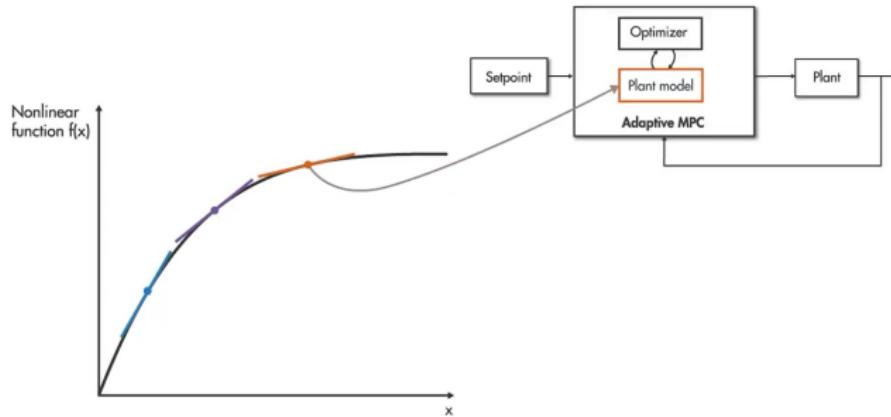


Figure: Example of Adaptive MPC [9].

Remark

The structure of the optimization problem remains the same across different operating points.

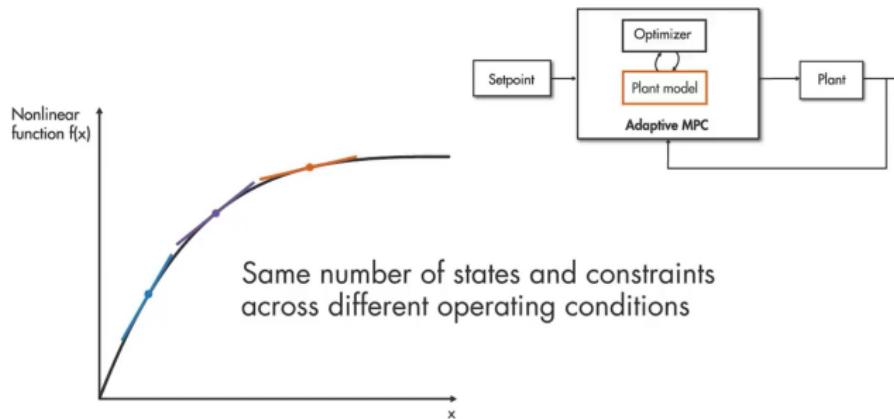


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In Gain-Scheduled MPC:

- Linearization is done offline at the operating points of interest.
- A linear MPC controller is then designed for each operating point.

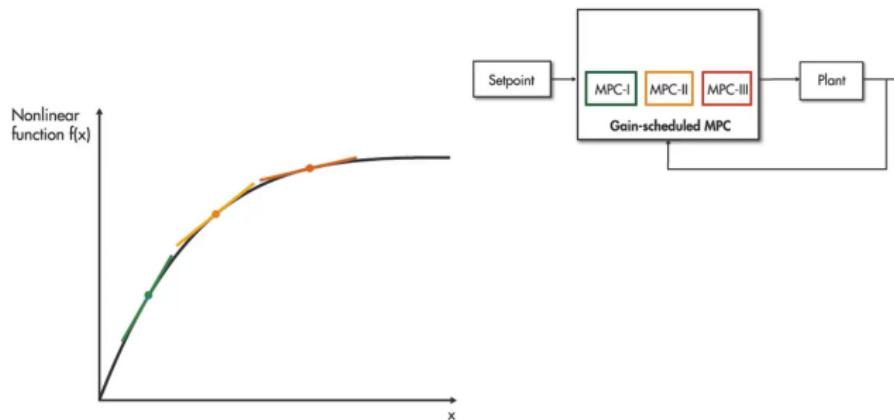


Figure: Example of Gain-Scheduled MPC [9].

Remark

Each controller is **independent** from the other.

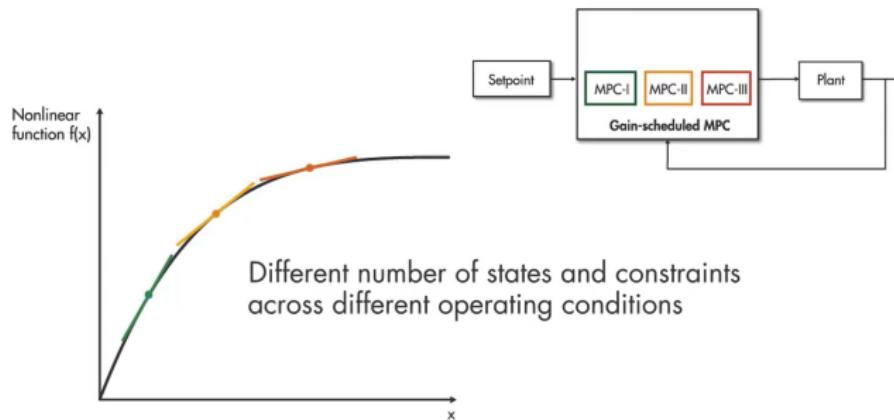


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For **Nonlinear MPC**, useful if:

- System is **non-linearizable**.
- Existence of **nonlinear** constraints.
- Existence of **nonlinear** cost function.

Nonlinear MPC

Most powerful methods: uses the most accurate representation of the plant \Rightarrow **More accurate predictions**.

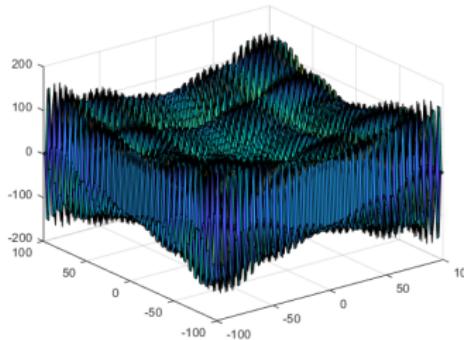


Figure: Example of a non-convex optimization problem.

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The physics of a quadrotor flip can be divided into 4 parts:

- **Climb phase:** Maximum vertical acceleration is applied.
- **Multi-flip phase:** It ends when the desired $2n\pi$ are achieved.
- **Descent phase:** Maximum thrust for descent compensation.
- **Re-stabilization:** Altitude regulation to desired value.

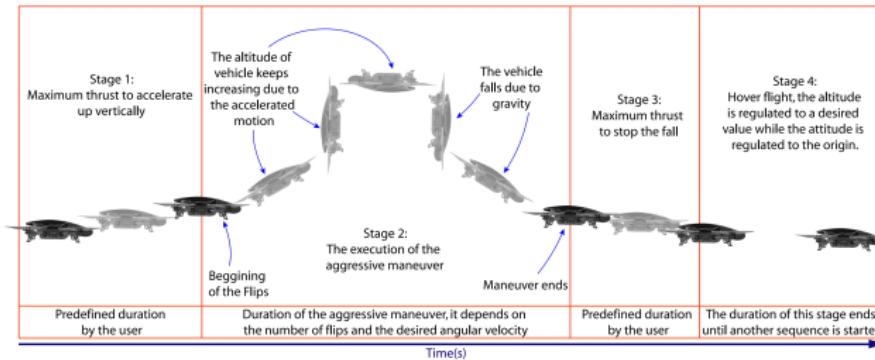


Figure: The phases needed for performing multi-flip maneuvers [11].

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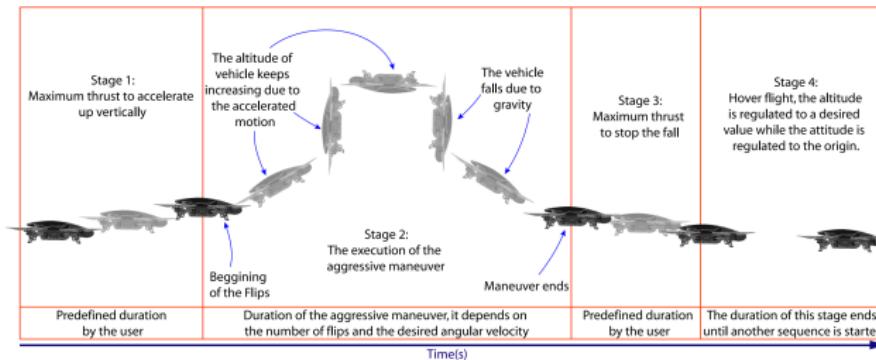


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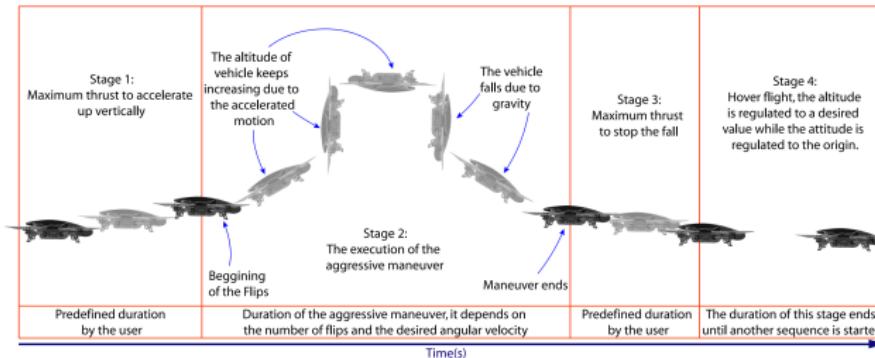


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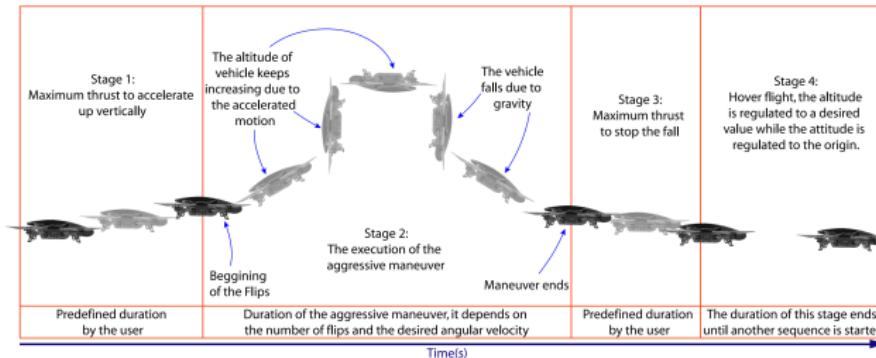


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In closed-loop attitude control:

- Main focus is on the **attitude part** of the platform.
- **Main idea:** Reference on ω is planned and tracked in closed-loop with a nonlinear control law.

It has the following properties:

- ① A flipping angle ϕ_g is defined such that a flip around \mathbf{a} through the UAV's CoG can be defined.
- ② Angular speed planning is performed using cubic splines (the desired ω_d is generated).
 - The dynamics of actuation is respected by guaranteeing that ω_{max} is not exceeded.

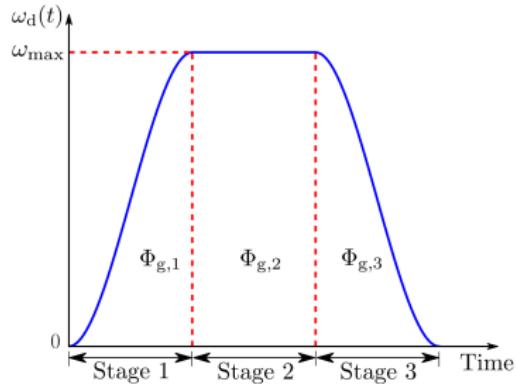
Given the desired amount of rotation accumulated during each stage $\Phi_{g,i}$ the duration of the stages is varied according to the current flipping angle ϕ_g :

$$\omega_d(t) = \begin{cases} \omega_{d,1} & \text{if } \phi_g \leq \Phi_{g,1} \\ \omega_{d,2} & \text{if } \Phi_{g,1} < \phi_g \leq \Phi_{g,1} + \Phi_{g,2} \\ \omega_{d,3} & \text{if } \Phi_{g,1} + \Phi_{g,2} < \phi_g \leq \Phi_{g,1} + \Phi_{g,2} + \Phi_{g,3} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

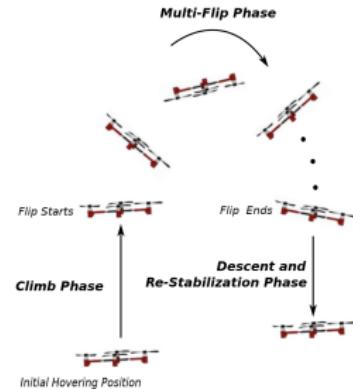
where:

$$\Phi_{g,1} + \Phi_{g,2} + \Phi_{g,3} = 2n\pi \quad (10)$$

in order to carry-out the flip.



(a) Reference of the angular velocity.



(b) Stages of the multi-flip maneuver.

Figure: Reference of the flipping speed and the different flipping phases [2].

- ③ Different control approaches can then used to track the angular speed reference.

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What is trajectory optimization?

- Set of techniques used to find the desired behavior of a dynamic system.
- It is a class of methods that solves the optimal control problem.

What is trajectory optimization?

- Set of techniques used to find the desired behavior of a dynamic system.
- It is a class of methods that solves the optimal control problem.

Optimal Control: Find the best control to achieve some desired goal.

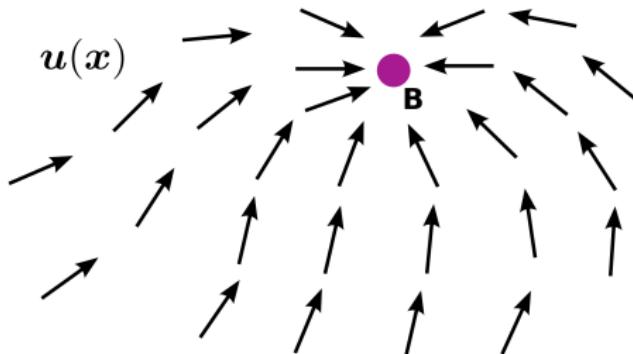


Figure: Closed-loop solution [7].

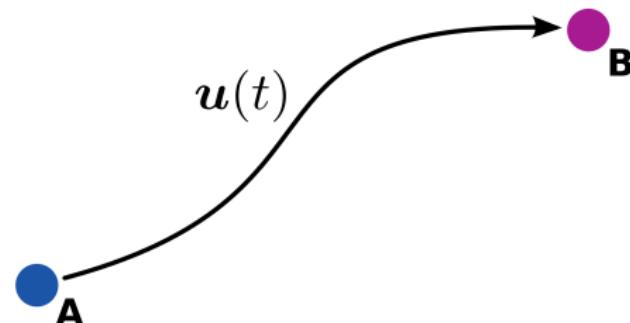


Figure: Open-loop solution [7].

- Global method and solution.
- More difficult to compute.
- Use: lower-dimensional problems.

- Local method and solution.
- Less difficult to compute.
- Use: higher-dimensional problems.

Trajectory Optimization Problem

$$\min_{t_0, t_F, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)} J(t_0, t_F, \mathbf{x}(t_0), \mathbf{x}(t_F)) + \int_{t_0}^{t_F} w(\tau, \mathbf{x}(\tau), \mathbf{u}(\tau)) d\tau$$

boundary objective function integral objective function
 functions!

subject to:

$$\mathbf{g}(t_0, t_F, \mathbf{x}(t_0), \mathbf{x}(t_F)) \leq \mathbf{0}$$

boundary constraints

$$t_{\text{low}} \leq t_0 < t_F \leq t_{\text{upp}}$$

bound on initial and final time

$$\mathbf{x}_{0,\text{low}} \leq \mathbf{x}(t_0) \leq \mathbf{x}_{0,\text{upp}}$$

bound on initial state

$$\mathbf{x}_{F,\text{low}} \leq \mathbf{x}(t_F) \leq \mathbf{x}_{F,\text{upp}}$$

bound on final state

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t))$$

continuous dynamics

$$\mathbf{h}(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) \leq \mathbf{0}$$

path constraints

$$\mathbf{x}_{\text{low}} \leq \mathbf{x}(t) \leq \mathbf{x}_{\text{upp}}$$

continuous bounds on state

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{low}} \leq \mathbf{u}(t) \leq \mathbf{u}_{\text{upp}}$$

continuous bounds on control

Transcription

trajectory optimization problem

- decision variables are vector ***functions***
- infinite dimensional
- ***differential*** equations

constrained parameter optimization

- decision variables are real ***numbers***
- finite dimensional
- ***algebraic*** equations

$$\min_{t_0, t_F, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)} J(t_0, t_F, \mathbf{x}(t_0), \mathbf{x}(t_F)) + \int_{t_0}^{t_F} w(\tau, \mathbf{x}(\tau), \mathbf{u}(\tau)) d\tau$$

boundary objective function integral objective function

subject to:

$$\mathbf{g}(t_0, t_F, \mathbf{x}(t_0), \mathbf{x}(t_F)) \leq \mathbf{0}$$

boundary constraints

$$t_{\text{low}} \leq t_0 < t_F \leq t_{\text{upp}}$$

bound on initial and final time

$$\mathbf{x}_{0,\text{low}} \leq \mathbf{x}(t_0) \leq \mathbf{x}_{0,\text{upp}}$$

bound on initial state

$$\mathbf{x}_{F,\text{low}} \leq \mathbf{x}(t_F) \leq \mathbf{x}_{F,\text{upp}}$$

bound on final state

calculus!

continuous dynamics

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t))$$

path constraints

$$\mathbf{h}(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) \leq \mathbf{0}$$

continuous bounds on state

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{low}} \leq \mathbf{u}(t) \leq \mathbf{u}_{\text{upp}}$$

continuous bounds on control

Non-Linear Program (NLP)

$$\min_z f(z) \quad \text{subject to:}$$

$$\mathbf{g}(z) \leq \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbf{h}(z) = \mathbf{0}$$

$$z_{\text{low}} \leq z \leq z_{\text{upp}}$$

Transcription Methods

Indirect Methods

- "optimize then discretize"
- more accurate
- harder to pose and solve

Direct Methods

- "discretize then optimize"
- less accurate
- easier to pose and solve

Shooting Methods

- based on simulation
- better for problems with simple control and no path constraints

Collocation Methods

- based on function approximation
- better for problems with complicated control and/or path constraints

"h-methods"

- low-order method
- converge by increasing number of segments

"p-methods"

- high-order methods
- converge by increasing method order

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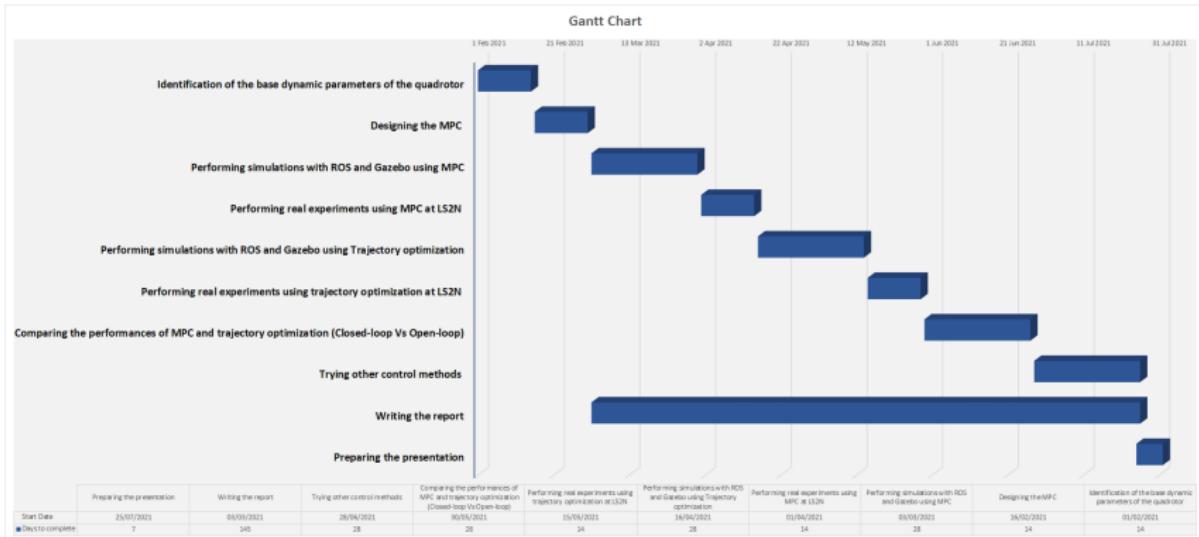


Figure: Preliminary plan for the master thesis

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