

Advanced AUV Motion Control and Terrain Following for Automatic Seabed Inspection



**Università
di Genova**

Fabio Guelfi

DIBRIS - Department of Computer Science, Bioengineering,
Robotics and System Engineering

University of Genova

Supervisors:

Prof. Enrico Simetti

Prof. Antonio Pascoal

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Laurea Magistrale in Robotics Engineering

October 14, 2025

Declaration of Originality

I, Fabio Guelfi, hereby declare that this thesis is my own work and all sources of information and ideas have been acknowledged appropriately. This work has not been submitted for any other degree or academic qualification. I understand that any act of plagiarism, reproduction, or use of the whole or any part of this thesis without proper acknowledgment may result in severe academic penalties.

Acknowledgements

This is an optional section, where you can write acknowledgments.
Don't forget to acknowledge your supervisor!

This is a short, optional, dedication. To all the Master and PhD students of Robotics Engineering at the University of Genova.

Abstract

The abstract should be a concise report of what the thesis is about. Do not use citations here, and avoid the use of abbreviations. It should not exceed one page of length.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Content	1
1.2	Basic commands	1
1.3	Equation	1
1.4	Figure	2
1.5	Table	3
1.6	Algorithm	3
1.7	Historical background	5
1.7.1	Marine robotics	5
1.7.2	Autonomous navigation	5
1.7.3	Underwater mission in seabed inspection	5
1.8	Problem statement	5
1.9	Motivation	5
1.10	Previous work and main contribution	5
1.10.1	Motion control of vehicles	5
1.10.2	Terrain following types	5
1.10.3	EKF and echosonar usage	5
1.10.4	Caccia PAPER AND SIMILAR	5
1.11	Thesis outline	5
2	AUV Dynamic	6
2.1	Reference frames and naming conventions	6
2.2	Dynamics	6
2.3	Full actuation model	6
2.4	BlueRov AUV	6
2.5	Summary	6
3	Sensor	7
3.1	AHRS	7
3.2	DVL	7
3.3	Echosnar	7

3.4	Possible integration	7
3.5	Summary	7
4	Estimator	8
4.1	Kalman Filter	8
4.2	Extended Kalman Filter	8
4.3	Summary	8
5	Ros and Stonefish	9
5.1	Introduction to ROS	9
5.2	BlueROV in Ros	9
5.3	Sensors in Ros	9
5.4	Introduction to Stonefish	9
5.4.1	Stonefish in Ros	9
5.4.2	Terrain generator in Stonefish	9
5.5	Summary	9
6	Terrain Tracking	10
7	Controller	11
8	Results and Simulations	12
9	Conclusions	13
A	Extra	14
	References	15

List of Figures

1.1	Scan profiles: <i>bottom, mid</i> and <i>top view</i>	2
-----	---	---

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Content

In the introduction, please state clearly the context your work is framed within, and the motivations of your work. Furthermore, it is important to clarify your contribution (and not those of the group you work in - it is still an exam after all). Provide an outline of the thesis.

1.2 Basic commands

This is a citation: *Caccia et al. (1999)*. Make sure to correctly enter all the bibliographic details. It is important that you double check them when retrieving the bibtex file from a source such as Google Scholar. Consistency in the references is valued by the Committee.

This is an emphasized word: *global*.

This is a reference to another part of the thesis: Chapter ??.

This is an enumerated list:

1. first item.
2. second item.

This is an in-line equation: $x-$.

This is a word in quotes: “regular”.

1.3 Equation

This is an equation:

$$\mathcal{U}_k(s_k) = \frac{P_k}{C_k}. \quad (1.1)$$

Equations follow the punctuation rules, as if they were inline with the text.
This is an equation split over multiple lines:

$$\begin{aligned} x_k &= \mathcal{F}(x_{k-1}, u_k, w_{k-1}), \\ z_k &= \mathcal{H}(x_k, v_k). \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

This is an example of equation with matrices:

$$\mathcal{Q}_l = \frac{d_l^2 \sigma_\phi^2}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \sin^2 \phi_l & -\sin 2\phi_l \\ -\sin 2\phi_l & 2 \cos^2 \phi_l \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} cc \frac{\sigma_d^2}{2} & 2 \cos^2 \phi_l & \sin 2\phi_l \\ \sin 2\phi_l & 2 \sin^2 \phi_l & \end{bmatrix}. \quad (1.3)$$

This is a reference to the Equation 1.2. Avoid using unnumbered equations as it makes it difficult to reference them during a discussion. Also, be consistent in the use of matrix or vector notation. For example, $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}$ or $\mathbf{y} = \alpha\mathbf{x}$, where the α is a scalar. You can change the corresponding definitions in the class file, as long as you remain consistent.

1.4 Figure

I add a figure.

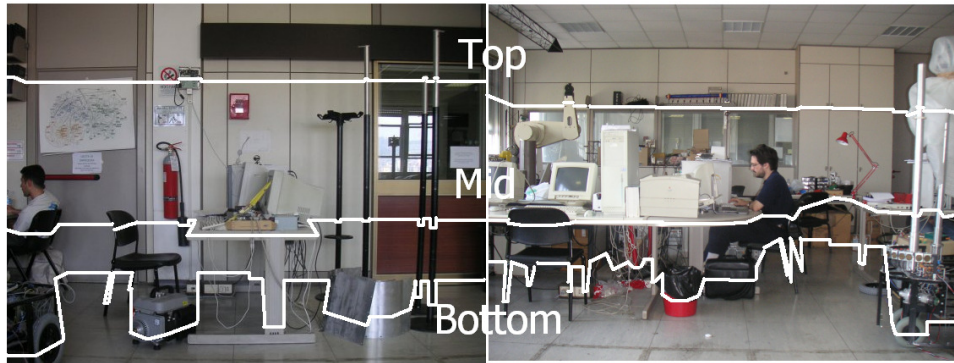


Figure 1.1: Scan profiles: *bottom*, *mid* and *top* view.

Make sure that figures axis are readable. Make sure to label all the units on both axes. The width of the lines should be also crosschecked for readability (the typical MATLAB plot might need higher line width). Double check that legends are present. Figures' captions should allow the reader to fully understand the figure.

This is a reference to Figure 1.1.

1.5 Table

The suggested packages for tables is tabular. There are many examples on the Internet. In general, avoid vertical lines, and use horizontal lines sparingly. Here S allows to align to the decimal point.

m	$\Re\{\mathfrak{X}(m)\}$	$-\Im\{\mathfrak{X}(m)\}$	$\mathfrak{X}(m)$	$\frac{\mathfrak{X}(m)}{23}$	A_m	$\varphi(m) / ^\circ$	$\varphi_m / ^\circ$
1	16.128	8.872	16.128	1.402	1.373	-146.6	-137.6
2	3.442	-2.509	3.442	0.299	0.343	133.2	152.4
3	1.826	-0.363	1.826	0.159	0.119	168.5	-161.1
4	0.993	-0.429	0.993	0.086	0.08	25.6	90
5	1.29	0.099	1.29	0.112	0.097	-175.6	-114.7
6	0.483	-0.183	0.483	0.042	0.063	22.3	122.5
7	0.766	-0.475	0.766	0.067	0.039	141.6	-122
8	0.624	0.365	0.624	0.054	0.04	-35.7	90
9	0.641	-0.466	0.641	0.056	0.045	133.3	-106.3
10	0.45	0.421	0.45	0.039	0.034	-69.4	110.9
11	0.598	-0.597	0.598	0.052	0.025	92.3	-109.3

1.6 Algorithm

This is an algorithm:

Algorithm 1 Split & Merge [& Split]**Require:** A scan s . A stack \mathcal{L} . A counter j . A threshold τ **Ensure:** $\lambda \leftarrow \mathcal{M}(s)$, $j = 1, \dots, |\lambda|$

```
1:  $\mathcal{L} = \text{push}(s)$ 
2:  $j \leftarrow 1$ 
3: while  $\mathcal{L} \neq \emptyset$  do
4:    $\mathcal{L} = \text{pop}(s_{top})$ 
5:    $l_j \leftarrow \text{fitting}(s_{top})$ 
6:    $q_k = \text{argmax}_q \text{dist}(l_j, q)$ 
7:   if  $\text{dist}(l_j, q_k) < \tau$  then
8:      $j \leftarrow j + 1$ 
9:     continue
10:  else
11:     $s_a \leftarrow \text{sub}(s_{top}, 1, k)$ 
12:     $s_b \leftarrow \text{sub}(s_{top}, k + 1, |s|)$ 
13:     $\mathcal{L} = \text{push}(s_a)$ 
14:     $\mathcal{L} = \text{push}(s_b)$ 
15:  end if
16: end while
17:  $\{l_j\} \leftarrow \text{merge}(\{l_j\})$ 
18:  $\{l_j\} \leftarrow \text{split}(\{l_j\})$ 
```

1.7 Historical background

1.7.1 Marine robotics

1.7.2 Autonomous navigation

1.7.3 Underwater mission in seabed inspection

1.8 Problem statement

1.9 Motivation

1.10 Previous work and main contribution

1.10.1 Motion control of vehicles

1.10.2 Terrain following types

1.10.3 EKF and echosonar usage

1.10.4 Caccia PAPER AND SIMILAR

1.11 Thesis outline

Chapter 2

AUV Dynamic

2.1 Reference frames and naming conventions

2.2 Dynamics

2.3 Full actuation model

2.4 BlueRov AUV

2.5 Summary

Chapter 3

Sensor

3.1 AHRS

3.2 DVL

3.3 Echosnar

3.4 Possible integration

3.5 Summary

Chapter 4

Estimator

4.1 Kalman Filter

4.2 Extended Kalman Filter

4.3 Summary

Chapter 5

Ros and Stonefish

5.1 Introduction to ROS

5.2 BlueROV in Ros

5.3 Sensors in Ros

5.4 Introduction to Stonefish

5.4.1 Stonefish in Ros

5.4.2 Terrain generator in Stonefish

5.5 Summary

Chapter 6

Terrain Tracking

Chapter 7

Controller

Chapter 8

Results and Simulations

Write the results here...

Chapter 9

Conclusions

Write the conclusions here...

Appendix A

Extra

Write here...

References

CACCIA, M., BRUZZONE, G. & VERUGGIO, G. (1999). Active sonar-based bottom-following for unmanned underwater vehicles. *Control Engineering Practice*, **7**, 459–468. [1](#)