

UNIVERSITY NAME (IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

Thesis Title

by

Author Name

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment for the
degree of Doctor of Philosophy

in the

Faculty Name

Department or School Name

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Declaration of Authorship

I, AUTHOR NAME, declare that this thesis titled, 'THESIS TITLE' and the work presented in it are my own. I confirm that:

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- Where any part of this thesis has previously been submitted for a degree or any other qualification at this University or any other institution, this has been clearly stated.
- Where I have consulted the published work of others, this is always clearly attributed.
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- I have acknowledged all main sources of help.
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UNIVERSITY NAME (IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

Abstract

Faculty Name

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Doctor of Philosophy

by Author Name

The Thesis Abstract is written here (and usually kept to just this page). The page is kept centered vertically so can expand into the blank space above the title too...

Acknowledgements

The acknowledgements and the people to thank go here, don't forget to include your project advisor...

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For/Dedicated to/To my...

Chapter 1

Introduction

[ToDo := Refs & Links]

In the following work an integration of a navigation system onto the Aerostack platform is presented.

1.1 Context

Aerostack is a framework for aerial robots, aimed at giving flight autonomy to some extent. It features a modular approach for the construction of behaviors that can be used to develop complex flights and automatic handling for certain situations such battery level or hardware conditions. It is the frame for the following work, which adds more autonomy through the integration of a octomap-based navigation system and a global planner. This provides a novel localization technique for the framework.

1.2 Motivation

So far, there exists only one simple geometry planner and an Aruco-based localization technique. In indoor environments, this system compels the need for environment preparation, the Arucos must be placed beforehand in well known localizations that must be hardcoded in the robot map. In this sense, there exists a need for a more robust, preparation-free localization system and accompanying planner. This work provides such an improvement with the introduction of a octomap-based navigation system and a global planner.

1.3 General Objective

This work aims at adding a novel navigation system to the Aerostack framework.

1.4 Specific Objectives

This section enumerates a comprehensive list of objectives.

1. Enrich the current navigation and localization systems.
2. Test and validate the new navigation and localization systems through simulated environments.

To achieve the first objective, the following additions to the framework are proposed:

- Add a robust planner based on a new navigation technique.
- Add a robust navigation technique through the use of octomaps.
- Add a robust localization technique based on octomaps.
- Add octomaps construction support through lidar.

1.5 Overview

[ToDo := Review when everything is finished]

This dissertation is organized as follows: ...

Chapter 2

Problem Description

In the present chapter the problem is presented, along with an introduction to the previous work. It is structured as follows: Section 2.1 presents the context of the problem and the requirements a replacement should have. Section 2.2 describes deeply the improvements presented and the decisions taken to end in 2.3 with the description of the previous system.

2.1 Requirements

As of the second version of Aerostack, the only localization technique available is based on the recognition of a special type of marker called Aruco, first used for augmented reality applications. It is a fast and reliable technique to estimate the pose of the camera capturing the image. Although this system works fine for many applications, it imposes the need of preparing the environment, placing this markers in a very precise way and annotating it's exact position before the experiments. While this might not be a problem in an augmented reality like scenario, when it comes to live localization in unknown environment it becomes useless. Hence, a new system for localization is required.

Along with the aforementioned localization technique comes the navigator which coordinates with a 2D geometric planner to accomplish the mission at hand. As the localization technique is to be changed, leading to a new way to perceive the environment, a new navigator and planner will be necessary.

2.2 Details of the New Features

A lidar is going to be used as the main source for localization. The module in charge of this part is already present in the Aerostack framework, but it is not being used. Based on lidar input an octomap is built. This octomap is then used by the navigator, along with the planner instructions to build a motion plan to execute.

The lidar + octomap functionality is provided by a module called `hector_slam`, developed at the Darmstadt University [1].

[ToDo := Review, NavStack & Global Planner]

2.3 Previous Work

By now, there is a process responsible for doing recognition of Aruco markers, it is connected to the robot camera and fetches data every n milliseconds, where n is a user defined constant. When an aruco is recognized, the pose of the robot can be estimated. Knowing the exact position of the marker enables the process to estimate the absolute position of the robot, leading to a high precision coordinates localization.

Appendix A

An Appendix

Bibliography

- [1] S. Kohlbrecher et al. “A Flexible and Scalable SLAM System with Full 3D Motion Estimation”. In: *Proc. IEEE International Symposium on Safety, Security and Rescue Robotics (SSRR)*. IEEE. Nov. 2011.