

Design and Implementation of Flight Dynamics Control Strategies for a Smartphone-based Quadrotor

Thesis for obtaining the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING
with emphasis in Automation

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Abstract

The field of autonomous systems control is young, but operational experience is rapidly growing, making research on collaborative systems of great importance. Improving aerial robots in particular could be key in facing future environmental challenges..... In this work, two main problems are addressed: the cooperative source seeking problem and the cooperative level curve tracking problem by a group of agents under undirected constrained communications.

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Introduction

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1.1 Motivation

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1.4.1 Quadrotors

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1.4.2 Smartphones as Controllers

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1.4.3 Smartphone-based Quadrotors

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1.4.4 Quadrotor Flight Modes

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Stabilize Mode

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Altitude Hold Mode

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Loiter Mode

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Return-To-Launch Mode

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Auto Mode

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1.5 Outline

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Chapter 2

Dynamic Model of the Quadrotor

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2.1 Quadrotors' Configuration

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2.1.1 '+' Configuration

rtgrtgtrbrtggrg

2.1.2 'X' Configuration

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2.2 Non-linear Model

This section describes the dynamic modeling used to perform the quadrotor control, based on the study carried out in [Castillo and Lozano \[2004\]](#), [Tamami et al. \[2014\]](#), [Voos \[2007\]](#). This model represents the quadrotor as a solid symmetrical object subject to a total thrust and three torques, without considering the dynamics of the actuators.

The general coordinates representing the position and attitude of the quadrotor are defined as

$$q = [\xi \quad \eta]^T, \quad (2.1)$$

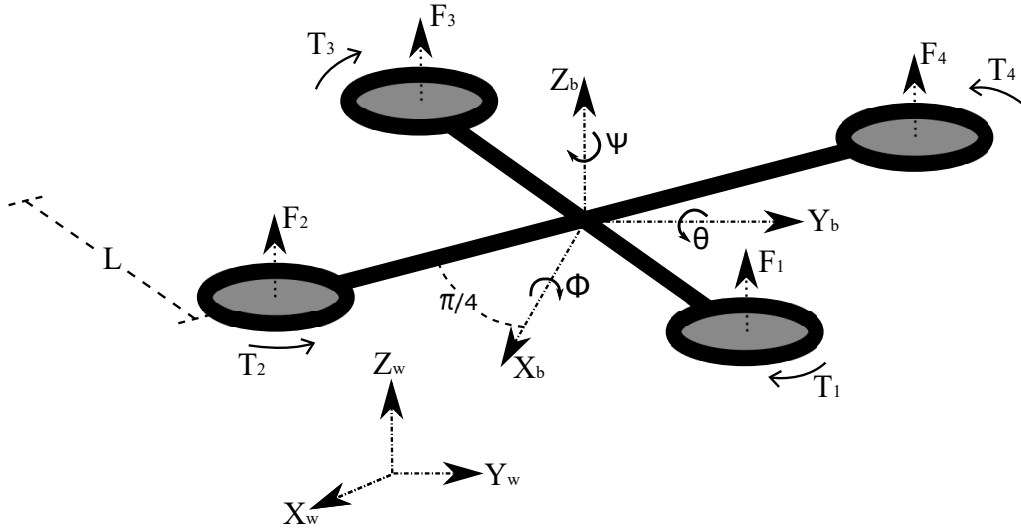


Figure 2.1: Quadrotor squeme with movement axis and thrust forces.

where $\xi = [x \ y \ z]^T$ is the vector representing the position of the center of mass of the quadrotor relative to the body reference frame shown in Fig. 2.1 and $\eta = [\psi \ \theta \ \phi]^T$ represent the quadrotor's attitude.

The Lagrangian of the quadrotor is defined by

$$L(q, \dot{q}) = K_{trans} + K_{rot} - U, \quad (2.2)$$

where $K_{trans} = \frac{m}{2} \dot{\xi}^T \dot{\xi}$ is the translational kinetic energy, $K_{rot} = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\eta}^T J \dot{\eta}$ is the rotational kinetic energy, $U = mgz$ is the potential energy, m is the quadrotor's mass, z is the quadrotor's elevation, g is the gravity acceleration magnitude, and J is the inertial matrix. The dynamic model of the quadrotor is derived from the Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} = \begin{bmatrix} F_\xi \\ \tau \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2.3)$$

where $F_\xi = R_b^w \hat{F}_b$ is the translational force applied to the quadrotor by the four motors, τ contains the rolling, pitching and yawing torques, and

$$R_b^w = \begin{bmatrix} c\theta c\psi & c\psi s\theta s\phi - c\phi s\psi & s\phi s\psi + c\phi c\psi s\theta \\ c\theta s\psi & s\psi s\theta s\phi + c\phi c\psi & c\phi s\psi s\theta - s\phi c\psi \\ -s\theta & c\theta s\phi & c\theta c\phi \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.4)$$

is the rotation matrix from the body to the Earth frame where $c\theta = \cos \theta$ and $s\theta = \sin \theta$.

In the quadrotor's body frame, the translational force \hat{F}_b is only applied in the z_b axis as shown in Fig. 2.1. This force is represented by

$$\hat{F}_b = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ u \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \sum_{i=1}^4 F_i \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2.5)$$

with F_i being the force, in N, exerted by the motor M_i , as shown in Fig. 2.1.

The force F_i has a linear dependency with the square of the motor angular velocity, defined as

$$F_i = k_i w_i^2, \quad (2.6)$$

where w_i is the angular velocity of the motor, and k_i is a proportional constant. However, in practice F_i must be set using the PWM signal input of an ESC. The thrust-PWM relation is found experimentally and is shown in Section ??.

The rolling, pitching and yawing torques contained in vector τ , are generated using the force exerted by each motor as

$$\tau = \begin{bmatrix} \tau_\psi \\ \tau_\theta \\ \tau_\phi \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T_1 + T_3 - T_2 - T_4 \\ L \cos(\pi/4)(F_3 + F_4 - F_2 - F_1) \\ L \cos(\pi/4)(F_2 + F_3 - F_1 - F_4) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2.7)$$

where T_i is the torque produced by each motor along the z_b axis, L is the distance between each motor's rotor and the quadrotor's center of mass, and $L \cos(\pi/4)$ is the real distance between the point of application of the rolling and pitching torques and the quadrotor's center of mass along the x_b and y_b axes ?.

The Euler-Lagrange equations can be divided in two parts, one for the ξ coordinates and another for the η coordinates, getting

$$\ddot{\xi} = \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{x} \\ \ddot{y} \\ \ddot{z} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{u_1}{m}(\cos \phi \sin \theta \cos \psi + \sin \phi \sin \psi) \\ \frac{u_1}{m}(\cos \phi \sin \theta \sin \psi - \sin \phi \cos \psi) \\ \frac{u_1}{m}(\cos \phi \cos \theta) - g \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2.8)$$

$$\ddot{\eta} = \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\psi} \\ \ddot{\theta} \\ \ddot{\phi} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\phi} \dot{\theta} \frac{J_{xx} - J_{yy}}{J_{zz}} + \frac{u_2}{J_{zz}} \\ \dot{\phi} \dot{\psi} \frac{J_{zz} - J_{xx}}{J_{yy}} + \frac{u_3}{J_{yy}} \\ \dot{\theta} \dot{\psi} \frac{J_{yy} - J_{zz}}{J_{xx}} + \frac{u_4}{J_{xx}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2.9)$$

where, $[u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4]^T = [u, \tau_\psi, \tau_\theta, \tau_\phi]^T$, and (J_{xx}, J_{yy}, J_{zz}) are the moments of inertia around the quadrotor's body axes ??.

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

with the parameters

$$m = 0.64 \text{ kg},$$

$$g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}.$$

The state vector is defined as

$$x(t) = [r_x \quad \dot{r}_x \quad r_y \quad \dot{r}_y \quad r \quad \dot{r}_z]^T,$$

and the control inputs as

$$u(t) = [u_1 \quad u_2 \quad u_3 \quad u_4]^T,$$

and the output vector is defined as

$$r(t) = [r_x \quad r_y \quad r_z]^T.$$

2.4 Conclusions

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Chapter 3

Smartphone-based Quadrotor Prototype

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3.1 Description of the Components

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3.1.1 Smartphone

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3.1.2 Frame

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3.1.3 Motors and Electronic Speed Controllers (ESC)

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3.1.4 Smartphone-ESC Gateway

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3.1.5 Battery

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3.1.6 Assembled Smartphone-based Quadrotor

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3.2 Quadrotor Parameters

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3.2.1 Mass

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3.2.2 Inertial Momentum

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3.2.3 Motors Thrust

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3.2.4 Motors Torque

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3.3 Conclusions

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Chapter 4

Control Strategies and State Estimation

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4.1 Control Strategies

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4.1.1 Linear Quadratic Regulator

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4.1.2 H_∞ Controller

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4.2 Controllers Design

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4.2.1 Stabilize Mode

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Dynamic Model

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Linear Quadratic Regulator

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 H_∞ Controller

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4.2.2 Altitude Hold Mode**Dynamic Model**

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Linear Quadratic Regulator

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 H_∞ Controller

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4.2.3 Loiter Mode**Dynamic Model**

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Linear Quadratic Regulator

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 H_∞ Controller

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4.2.4 Return-To-Launch Mode

Dynamic Model

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Linear Quadratic Regulator

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H_∞ Controller

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4.2.5 Auto Mode

Dynamic Model

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Linear Quadratic Regulator

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H_∞ Controller

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4.3 State Estimation Through Kalman Filter

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4.3.1 Particle Model

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4.3.2 Quadrotor Model

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4.4 Conclusions

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Chapter 5

Implementation and Results

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5.1 Kalman Filter for State Estimation

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5.2 Linear Quadratic Regulator Results

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5.2.1 Simple Translational Movements (LQR)

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5.2.2 Trajectory Tracking (LQR)

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5.3 H_∞ Regulator Results

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5.3.1 Simple Translational Movements (H_∞)

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5.3.2 Trajectory Tracking (H_∞)

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5.4 Conclusions

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Conclusions and Outlook

In this thesis distributed algorithms

Publications

A. Astudillo, P. Muñoz, F. Alvarez and E. Rosero, “Altitude and attitude cascade controller for a smartphone-based quadcopter,” in *2017 International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS)*. IEEE, jun 2017, pp. 1447–1454. [Online]. Available: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7991400/>

A. Astudillo, B. Bacca and E. Rosero, “Optimal and robust controllers design for a smartphone-based quadrotor,” in *2017 IEEE 3rd Colombian Conference on Automatic Control (CCAC)*

(Paper Submitted to Journal) A. Astudillo, P. Muñoz and E. Rosero, “Cascade Controller for Autonomous Flight of a Smartphone-based Quadrotor,” in *Journal of Intelligent & Robotic Systems, SI: UAS-2017*.

Supplementary Material

Video of experiments: <https://goo.gl/vQ3sZx>

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