

Workplan for project A3: Motion Control of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

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1 Background

Unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as UAVs, are becoming nowadays more and more popular because they are small, cheap to produce, have low operating and maintenance cost, have great maneuverability, can perform steady flight operations and are able to enter high-risk areas without having to compromise human safety. Most applications that involve UAVs have been used in open areas without any obstacles and with a human in control of the UAV. But in recent years people have come up with more modern applications of UAVs that will need UAVs to fly autonomously in densely populated areas, with a lot of other autonomous UAVs around, e.g. Amazon Prime Air delivery system, AltiGator drones services for inspection and data acquisition, or multi-UAVs used to deploy an aerial communications network. This places high demands on UAVs' obstacle avoidance capabilities for both moving and static obstacles.

There are many different manufacturers and a vast amount of different UAV models, all with different motors, weights, sensors and lift-to-weight ratio. To make a standard autonomous flight applicable to all these kinds of UAVs, a simple and easy-to-implement multi-UAV mathematical model, that will still be able to avoid obstacles with as few sensors as possible, is needed.

This project aims to study and develop a mathematical model of a quadrotor UAV and the available sensors in it. From the trajectory and pose tracking a state feedback controller will be designed. In order to facilitate the multi-UAV navigation potential fields or an A* algorithm will be used to make several quads fly to their goals while maintaining collision avoidance with respect to other quads and obstacles. To check the validity of the models, a simulated test environment in MatLab filled with a random reasonable amount of static obstacles and autonomous UAVs will be used.

2 Goals

Literature. Present a paper/combination of papers that describe the modelling of the UAVs, sensors and tracking. Observe how it is done in the community, categorize these papers and reflect on what is our contribution with respect to the rest.

→ The literature goal can be completed when the literature proposed by the supervisor and other interesting documents proposed by the students have been all read, understood and classified (which parts belong or have been used for the modelling of the quad, of the sensors or for the tracking).

Mathematical Model. Have a robust model for the kinematics and dynamics of the UAV, and its sensors.

→ The mathematical model goal can be completed when we can describe our UAV with a matrix that includes its position, its linear velocity, its angles (roll, yaw and pitch) and its angular velocity, all of them related to a certain fixed reference frame that we can relate with, for example, the initial frame. Also, when we have derived an equation for each of the necessary sensors: IMU sensor (accelerometer and gyroscope), an 360 degree proximity sensor and GPS.

Control. Be able to control the trajectory and stability of the UAV.

→ The control goal can be considered as completed when we are able, for a certain desirable movement of the UAV, to obtain the appropriate force of thrusters for the UAV to achieve the desired position as fast as possible. This should be achieved with a state feedback controller that satisfies the robustness criteria, is observable, controllable and stable (check poles).

Multi-agent case. Apply and expand on the model and the control proposed for one UAV, but for a variable number of UAVs.

→ The multi-agent case goal can be completed when

Simulation. Verify that all the previous steps have been appropriately carried out so the main purpose of the project is achieved. Extract results.

Risks. Ask Supervisor how long 'x amount of time' should be and agree on a schedule for weekly meetings with supervisor

3 Organization

4 Project Model: Work tree

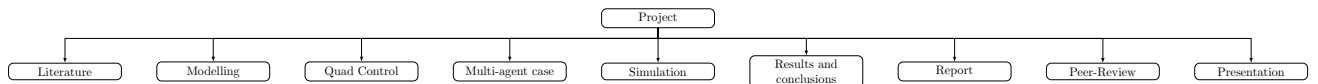


Figure 1: Basic work tree

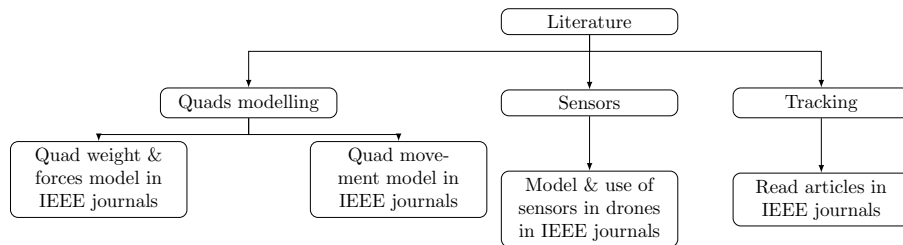


Figure 2: Expanded work tree for the literature section

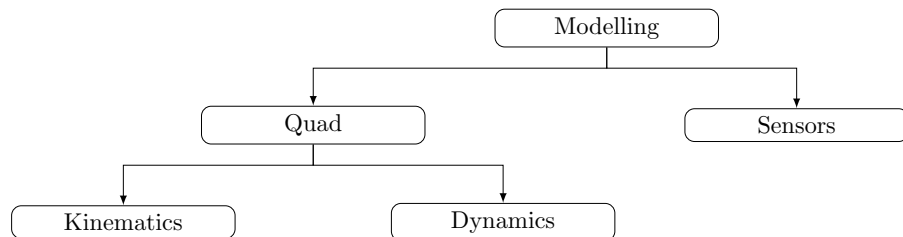


Figure 3: Expanded work tree for the modelling section

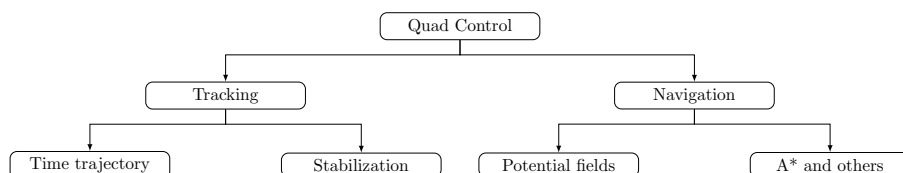


Figure 4: Expanded work tree for the single-quad control section

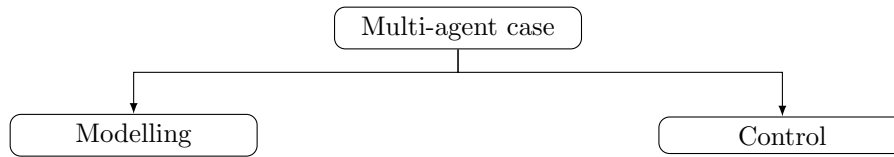


Figure 5: Expanded work tree for the multi-agent case section

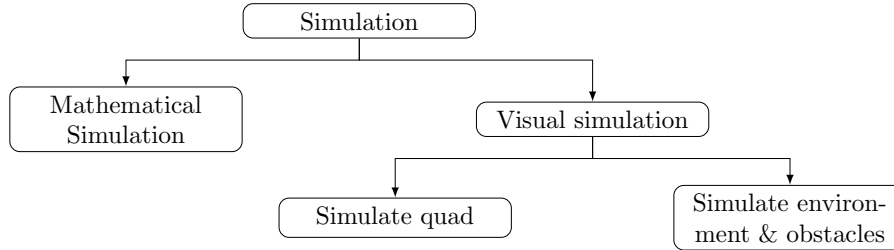


Figure 6: Expanded work tree for the simulation section

We will have a more detailed part of the simulation part of the work tree in status report 1 and a more detailed part of the report and peer-review part in status report 2.

When we have completed a section on the work tree we will give a small presentation to our supervisor about that section. We will present the model we came up with or the results we had, the goals we aimed at for that part of the project and then motivate that we have completed said goals. This will give us a chance to show that we really understand what we've done and will probably help with the report later on since it'll give us a chance to explain what we have done, just like we will do in the report.

5 Risk analysis

Risks	P	C	R	Counter measure
Diseases in the group	2	2	4	Reactive: Rearrange workload Proactive: Nothing
Loss of documents and information	2	4	8	Reactive: recollect information again Proactive: Have bakups for everything, use Google Drive and GitHub
Running out of time	4	2	8	Reactive: Re-evaluate work plan and consult with supervisor Proactive: Have a good work plan, check on each other if we'll complete deadlines in time, check more when deadlines are closing in
Bad communication with supervisor	2	2	4	Reactive: Send reminders if we get no answer in x amount of time. Proactive: Schedule meetings now (once a week for example) and modify these dates if there is no need to meet. Ask supervisor how long 'x amount of time' should be. Plan accordingly
Bad UAV Model	3	3	9	Reactive: Redesign UAV model? Proactive: Test the calculated model with 3 individual tests of simple rotation and movement around and along one axis in a 3D space where the starting and final position is known either on paper or with matlab, check that you get the expected outcome.
Bad sensor Model				Reactive: Proactive:
Faulty state feedback controller	4	3	12	Reactive: Redesign the whole controller. damage control! Proactive: Check the Observability, Controllability, Robustness Criteria and pole placement of the designed State feedback controller

6 Documentation/Communication rules

We will use Github and Google drive for documentation, all code and everything written i latex will be stored on github, the rest will be stored on google drive.

7 Appendix

7.1 Time line

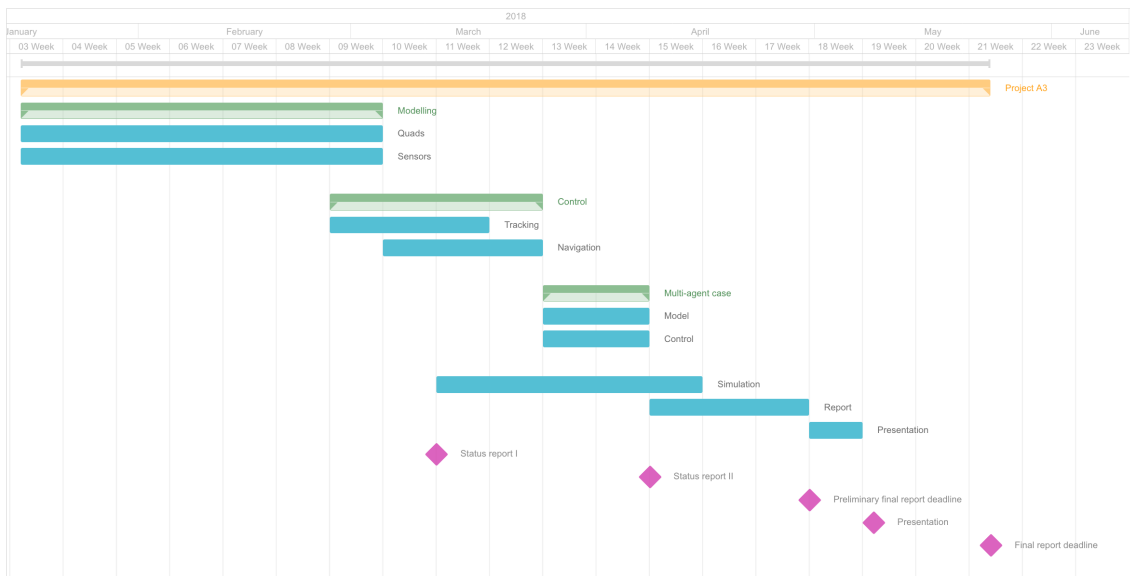


Figure 7: Time line for the project

7.2 Resource plan