

Building an Estimator

1. Writeup

2. Implement Estimator

- Determine Standard deviation of the measurement
- Implement a better rate gyro attitude integration scheme
- Implement all of the elements of the prediction step for the estimator
- Implement magnetometer
- Implement GPS

3. Flight Evaluation

- Meet the performance criteria of each step
- Successfully fly the final desired box trajectory with estimator and realistic sensors

Intro

Project's code is mainly a drone simulator provided by Udacity (see sources and detailed explanation provided in Udacity's readme.

Import the code into your IDE, cloning `git clone
https://github.com/udacity/FCND-Estimation-CPP.git`

Tasks

Assessed tasks are given as a result of modifying 4 files mainly:

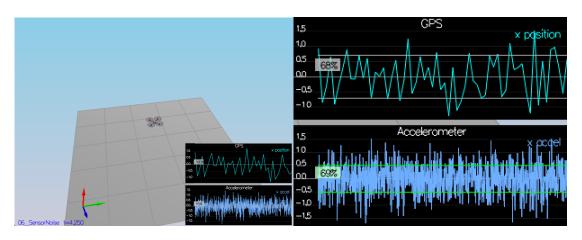
- QuadEstimatorEKF.cpp`
- QuadControl.cpp`
- QuadEstimatorEKF.txt`
- QuadControlParams.txt`

The tasks are detailed as follows:

Sensor Noise

Add noise to the quad's sensors to approximate control in a more realistic conditions environment. Steps to reproduce:

- 1. Run scenario 06_NoisySensors and collected some simulated noise sensors data
- Calculate standard deviation (data registered in log folder, used `np.std` from Numpy)
- 3. Update `config/6_Sensornoise.txt1` with generated output (see full calculation steps in `sensorNoise.ipynb` available in the repo)
- 4. Re-run simulator calculated standard deviation correctly capture approximately 68% of the respective measurements as expected.

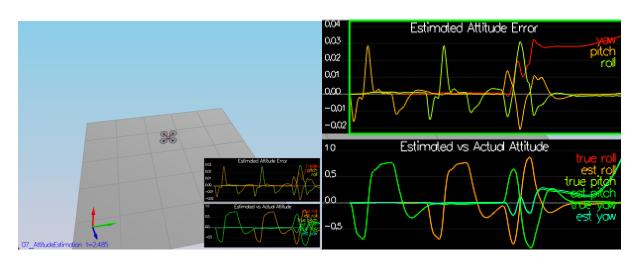


Simulation #64 (../config/06_SensorNoise.txt)
PASS: ABS(Quad.GPS.X-Quad.Pos.X) was less than MeasuredStdDev_GPSPosXY for 68% of the time
PASS: ABS(Quad.IMU.AX-0.000000) was less than MeasuredStdDev_AccelXY for 69% of the time

Attitude Estimation

Steps to reproduce:

- 1. Run scenario 07_AttitudeEstimation. Sensors used: IMU with noise level set to 0 (`config/07_AttitudeEstimation.txt`)
- 2. Observe graph with errors in each of the estimated Euler angles (top graph)
- 3. Observe true Euler Angles and the estimates and observe error in attitude estimation



Simulation #13 (../config/07_AttitudeEstimation.txt)
PASS: ABS(Quad.Est.E.MaxEuler) was less than 0.100000 for at least 3.000000 seconds

Prediction State

Steps to reproduce:

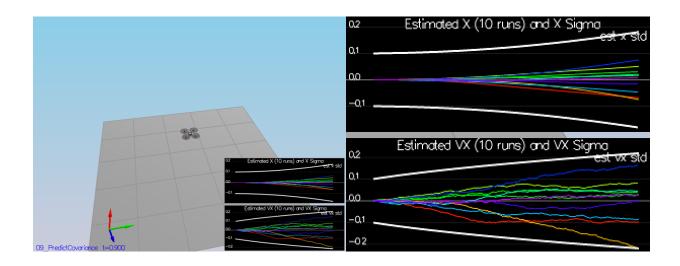
- Run scenario 08_PredictState. (IMU sensor only with a `QuadEstimatorEKF.attitudeTau=100`)
- 2. Observe graph with elements of estimated state and true state
- 3. Implement state prediction in `PredictState()` function, where the transition function needs the rotation matrix Rbq which rotates from the body frame to the global frame.
- 4. Convert true acceleration from body to global frame ('attitude.Rotate Btol()')



Predict Covariance

Steps to reproduce:

- 1. Run scenario 09_PredictionCov
- 2. Observe Position X estimates (Top Graph)
- 3. Observe velocity Vx estimates (prediction only at the Bottom Graph)
- 4. In `QuadEstimatorEKF.cpp` can be found the calculation of the partial derivative of the body to global rotation matrix in the function `GetRbgPrime()`

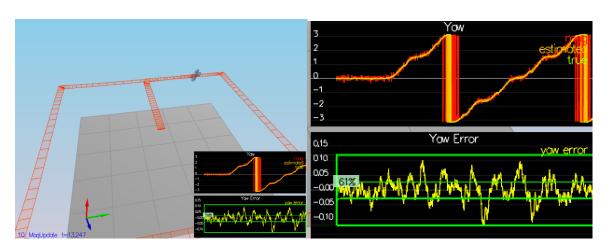


Magnetometer Update

The State of Estimation only has been using accelerometer and gyro until now that we are going to incorporate magnetometer in order to improve performance.

Steps to reproduce:

- 1. Run scenario 10 MagUpdate
- 2. Observe parameters tuned 'QYawStd' (on 'QuadEstimatorEKF.txt') it will capture approximately the magnitude of the drift.
- 3. As a result of the implementation, yaw error decrease and sigma remain stable.



Simulation #78 (../config/10_MagUpdate.txt)
PASS: ABS(Quad.Est.E.Yaw) was less than 0.120000 for at least 10.000000 seconds
PASS: ABS(Quad.Est.E.Yaw-0.000000) was less than Quad.Est.S.Yaw for 66% of the time

GPS Update

Implements a GPS update step.

Steps to reproduce:

- 1. Run scenario 11 GPSUpdate
- 2. Change estimator stting 'Quad.UseIdealEstimator' to 0 in 'config/11 GPSUpdate.txt'
- Implement a EKF GPS update `UpdateFromGPS()`
- 4. Observe successfully simulation with new conditions, flying fine in general terms without the ideal elements.



Simulation #82 (../config/11_GPSUpdate.txt)
PASS: ABS(Quad.Est.E.Pos) was less than 1.000000 for at least 20.000000 seconds

Flight Evaluation

Flying simulator succeed! You can change and play with the adjusted elements to understand how it behaves in different conditions!

Acknowledgment

The C++ simulator and project scenarios were largely designed and built by Fotokite. Big thanks to the Fotokite team (and Sergei Lupashin in particular) for their great work!