

Camera based positioning system for the CCOM/JHC and OE engineering test tank.

Exploring the idea of using a camera to track small (RC boat sized) autonomous vessels in the test tank.

Existing technologies

OpenCV: <https://opencv.org/> (<https://opencv.org/>).

ArUco: <https://www.uco.es/investiga/grupos/ava/node/26> (<https://www.uco.es/investiga/grupos/ava/node/26>).

OpenCV does contain an implementation of the ArUco decoding library.

Test tank

According to <http://ccom.unh.edu/facilities/test-tanks/engineering-tank> (<http://ccom.unh.edu/facilities/test-tanks/engineering-tank>), the tank size is 60 by 40 feet.

```
In [1]: tank_size_feet = (60,40)
        tank_size_meters = tuple(x*0.3048 for x in tank_size_feet)
        print tank_size_meters

(18.288, 12.192)
```

ArUco markers

For testing, the ArUco DICT_7X7_50 dictionary was chosen. It was chosen due to it's larger number of bits (7x7) versus the number of markers in the dictionary (50) which is supposed to help suppress errors.

Quick testing seems to suggest that markers should span at least 20 pixels in order to be reliably detected.

```
In [2]: marker_size_pixels = 20
```

The marker is to be placed on top of a floating target, facing the ceiling with a camera looking down over the tank from the ceiling.

Marker sizes

Let's explore various sizes ranging from 30 centimeters to 10 centimeters.

```
In [3]: marker_sizes_meters = (.3,.2,.1)
```

Minimal resolution necessary to reliably resolve markers:

```
In [4]: import math

        for msize in marker_sizes_meters:
            pixel_size = msize/marker_size_pixels
            resolution = tuple(int(math.ceil(x/pixel_size)) for x in tank_size_meters)
            print 'marker size:',msize,'meters, pixel size:',pixel_size,'meters, resolution:',resolution

marker size: 0.3 meters, pixel size: 0.015 meters, resolution: (1220, 813)
marker size: 0.2 meters, pixel size: 0.01 meters, resolution: (1829, 1220)
marker size: 0.1 meters, pixel size: 0.005 meters, resolution: (3658, 2439)
```

Camera geometry

Distance from top edge of tank to ceiling supports is 14' 5".

```
In [5]: camera_distance_meters = (14+(5/12.0))*0.3048
        print camera_distance_meters, 'meters'

4.3942 meters
```

```
In [6]: field_of_view_degrees = tuple((180/math.pi)*2*math.atan(x/(2*camera_distance_meters)) for x in tank_size_meters)
        print field_of_view_degrees

(128.6662586875929, 108.42935981879275)
```

```
In [ ]:
```