

# Fuzzy Logic & Genetic Algorithms in Agricultural Drones

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**Abstract**—Over recent years, fuzzy logic, with the help of drones and UAVs, has made continuous advancements in agriculture to aid in crop monitoring, resource management, and risk assessment. While the combination of the two has improved the field of agriculture, the addition of genetic programming can further UAV potential by offering decision support in navigation and obstacle avoidance, automating data collection on crops, and aiding in analysis and prediction models. This research aims to find how these areas can come together in a way that not only saves time and money in man hours but also maximize overall yield by minimizing resources and combating crop diseases. By developing an expert system that is intelligent and adaptive, drones will be equipped to make decisions while being context-aware of the environment, variables related to a particular crop's yield and objects that they measure. The objective is to have a drone that can recognize problems for the given area of crops, navigate complex and dynamic environments, and perform data collection all while progressively learning. This will allow farmers to better maintain their crops by knowing not only what to adjust regarding the resources used to increase yield but also their amounts. To complete this, a literature review will be executed to determine the most effective methods for determining decision-making with fuzzy logic and genetic programming. Jacob Adams will focus on the areas of flight path planning and obstacle avoidance while Dylan Tribble will look at the expert systems and implementations used to create the capability of recognizing changes in plant health and payload delivery.

## I. INTRODUCTION

On any given day, the world adds approximately 200 thousand people to the population, with the United Nations projecting the global population to surpass 9 billion by 2050 [1] [2]. Critically, food production must match the rapid growth of the world's population, with many farmers adding Artificial Intelligence (AI) to their arsenal of tools to meet this goal. Traditional, manual sampling can be destructive to crops and is prone to bias and human error. While AI, when combined with Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) also known as drones, can play a vital role in increasing yield, along with environmental sustainability through the analysis of key variables such as canopy cover, crop height, nitrogen content, and water stress [3]. While there exists a variety of methods to automate drone usage on farms, the first

hurdle to overcome is path planning when orchestrating the routes of a multitude of drones. Path planning for a team of drones can either be handled through a centralized controller, or with each UAV making decisions by itself.

## II. PRECISION AGRICULTURE

Precision agriculture (PA) is the practice of collecting and analyzing data to automate the farming process through removing human bias and reducing destructive manual testing practices. PA started decades ago in the form of unmanned aircraft and satellite imaging. Both of which had questionable accuracy, along with being heavily dependent on ideal weather scenarios [1]. Satellite data, which is used to monitor broadacre farming, provides detail on the scale of meters, while drones offer the potential for centimeter resolution [4]. The push for PA is being driven by two main factors: waste reduction in the form of time, resources, and yield which translates into cost savings, and environmental protection [1].

### A. Agricultural Drones

Drones applied in agriculture are seeing wide spread research and use for imagery, in order to track the health and progress of plants throughout the season. Data being tracked can include water stress, soil type, pests, weeds, and fungal infestations, depending on the farmer's needs [1]. For plant monitoring, drones typically rely on visible light (RGB), multispectral, hyperspatial, thermal, or any combination of these [3] [4] [1]. The data being collected by these drones can additionally be used to generate augmented reality visualizations of crops, in regards to soil pH levels and key nutrients for the crops [3]. The next step for agricultural drones is the development of an automated system to disperse fertilizer and pesticides on a controlled basis [1]. Existing research in military and civilian applications of drone swarms for automated procedures is being applied to agricultural drones as a starting point for research [5].

### B. Hybrid Systems

1) *Fuzzy Logic*: Hybrid systems are composed of two different artificial learning approaches combined

to gain the benefits of processes. Major benefits of the hybrid approach are typically adding explainability and/or optimizing the output [5] [6]. In hybrid system implementations, fuzzy logic systems can be paired with neural networks, genetic algorithms, and in the case of path planning, particle swarm optimization (PSO) [6].

#### 2) Genetic Algorithms:

- Introduce genetic algorithms and their relevance to optimization problems in agricultural drone applications.
- Review recent studies and implementations that utilize genetic algorithms for route planning, resource optimization, or other tasks in agricultural drone systems.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of genetic algorithms in addressing specific challenges in agriculture.

### III. INTEGRATION TECHNIQUES

- Explore research that combines fuzzy logic and genetic algorithms to enhance the performance of agricultural drone systems.
- Discuss how the synergy of these two techniques addresses specific challenges and optimizes various aspects of drone operations in agriculture.

### IV. APPROACHES FOR HYBRID SYSTEMS IN UAVS

- Provide real-world examples or case studies that demonstrate the successful implementation of fuzzy logic and genetic algorithms in agricultural drone technology.
- Discuss the outcomes, benefits, and lessons learned from these case studies.

### V. DESIGNING A HYBRID SYSTEM FOR UAVS

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### VI. CHALLENGES AND OUTLOOK

- Identify current challenges and limitations in the integration of fuzzy logic and genetic algorithms in agricultural drones.
- Discuss potential future directions for research and development in this field, including emerging technologies or methodologies. [5]

### VII. CONCLUSION

- Summarize the key findings and insights from your review.
- Emphasize the significance of using fuzzy logic and genetic algorithms in advancing agricultural drone technology.
- Provide recommendations for future research in this area.

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