

Rapid Flight Control Prototyping - Steps Toward Cooperative Mission-Oriented Capabilities

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Abstract—The paper describes the latest advancements of the Rapid Flight Control Prototyping system that were motivated by the need to enable cooperative missions of multiple unmanned aerial vehicles. Driven by the mission level objectives and supported on one hand by the progress in miniature sensors, computational power, communication and portable energy technologies and on the other hand by the advanced capabilities of embedded control and communication oriented software, the developed system enabled rapid design, onboard integration and in-flight verification of concepts that seemed impossible just a couple of years ago. Advantages of the designed system are illustrated by a number of scenarios that were recently developed and verified in flight by multiple cooperative UAVs. The paper concentrates on presenting the motivation and the conceptual design ideas which drive the evolution of constantly changing flight prototyping platform.

I. INTRODUCTION

History of RFTPS at NPS.

Specifics of NPS - R&D of DOD specific mission and education.

Challenges of the design and flight integration. The process is essentially a systems engineering where we have to keep in mind all available capabilities of Low level pices including software and sensors and going up to the safety of flight experimentation.

Current state of the art in software and hardware: CPU, Comm links, systems on a chip and OS-based designs.

What are the objectives: Mission driven design that should not only prove a specific control concept but be feasible for education.

Outline of the paper: Section II - outlines two basic types of control prototyping systems OS based and a system on a chip, presents benefits and constraints. Section III - presents an architecture of our current system that includes xPC based basic design and flight verification and transitions to Linux based semi-industrial implementation. Section IV - presents a number of flight experiments illustrating key capabilities of the RFCPS.

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TABLE I
AN EXAMPLE OF A TABLE

One	Two
Three	Four

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Fig. 1. Inductance of oscillation winding on amorphous magnetic core versus DC bias magnetic field

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APPENDIX

Appendixes should appear before the acknowledgment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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