

Advances in Fast MPC & Constrained MRAC for Aerial Robotics

Dr. Andrea L'Afflitto

Dipartimento di Ingegneria Meccanica e Aerospaziale
Politecnico di Torino

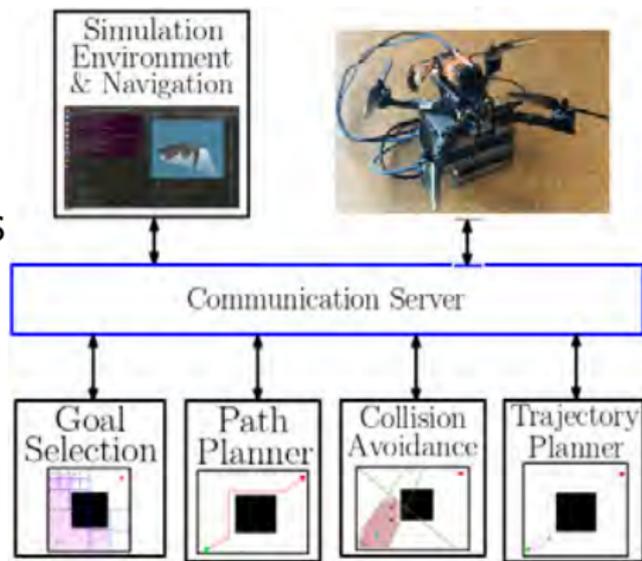


Project 1: Tactical Guidance

- **Objective 1:** Create guidance system for autonomous UAVs in *potentially* hostile environments;
 - Perform goal-to-set missions
 - Perform mapping (area coverage) missions
- **Objective 2:** Create taxonomy of flight behaviors based on *perceived* risk;
- **Bio-Inspired Approach:** Mimic the behavior of prey animals seeking food in unknown environment;

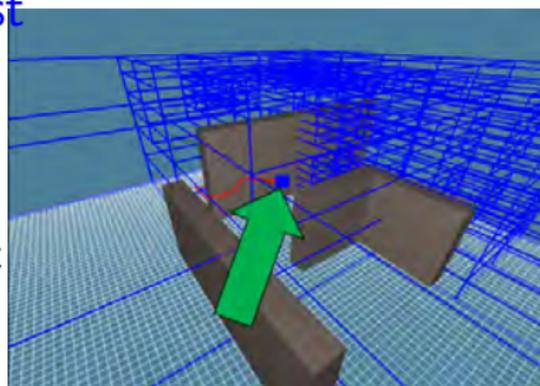
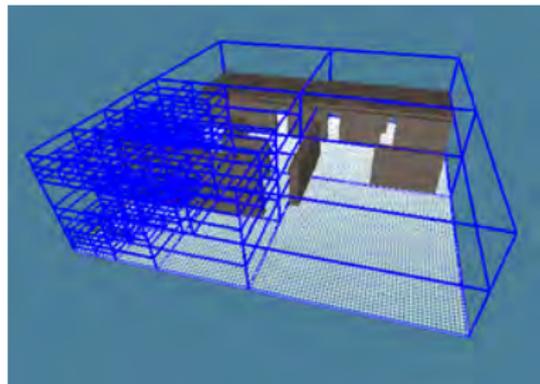
Architecture Overview

- **Goal selection algorithm** based on **Octree structure**;
- **Path planner** exploits the **environment** for **stealth**;
- **Trajectory planning** employs **output feedback linearization** and **fast MPC**;
- **Collision-avoidance** based on **semidefinite programming**;
- **All modules** execute in **parallel**.



Algorithm to Select Goal Points

- Partition the voxel map
 - Explored, free vox.;
 - Explored, occupied vox.;
 - Unexplored (free) vox..
- Determine **sufficiently unexplored** partitions;
- Determine the **largest & closest** partitions;
- **Goal point** that interpolates their centers;
 - **Systematic exploration**: closest partition
 - **Greedy exploration**: largest partition



Tactical Path Planning

Path planning problem **solution** over a **voxel map**

$$\min f_k \triangleq g_k + h_k,$$

where

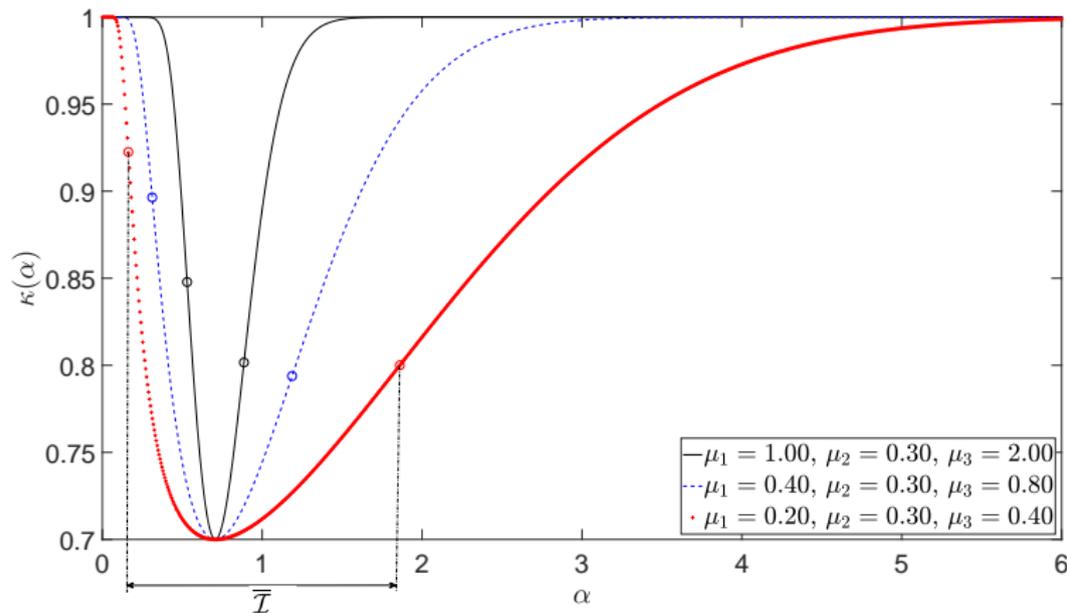
$$g_k \triangleq \sum_{q=1}^k [\kappa(d_2(\hat{r}_q, \mathcal{O}))d_2(\hat{r}_q, \hat{r}_{q-1})],$$

$$h_k \triangleq (1 - \mu_2)d_2(\hat{r}_k, \mathcal{G}),$$

$$\kappa(\alpha) \triangleq 1 - \mu_2 e^{4\mu_1\mu_3 - [\mu_3\alpha + \mu_1\alpha^{-1}]^2}$$



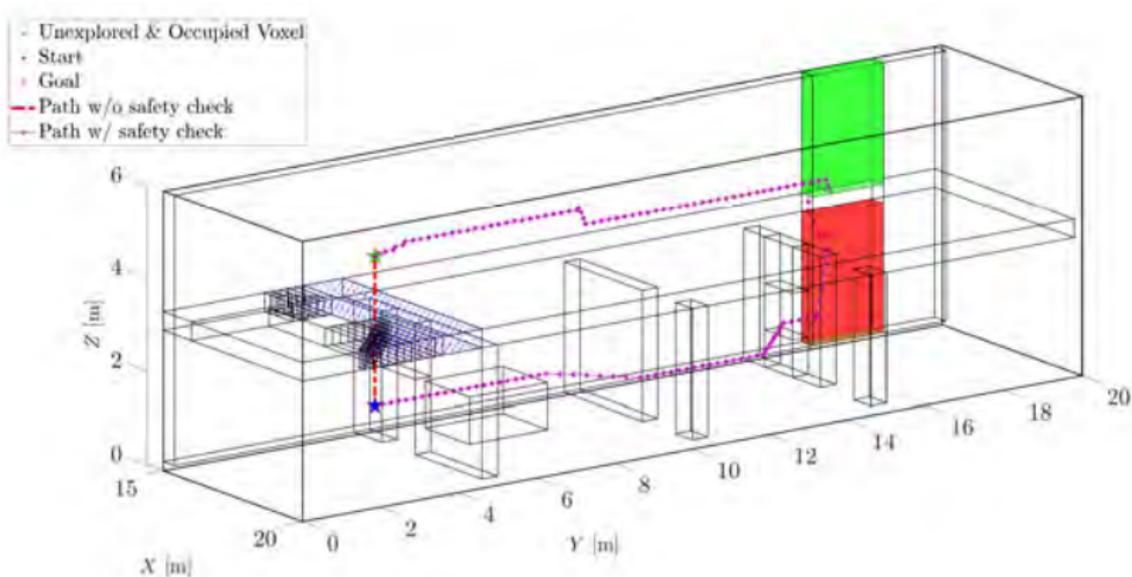
Tactical Path Planning – Search Bias



Algorithm to Ensure Path Planner Safety

Avoid areas not detectable by the UAV's field of view

- Too close to the yaw axis



Fast Collision Avoidance

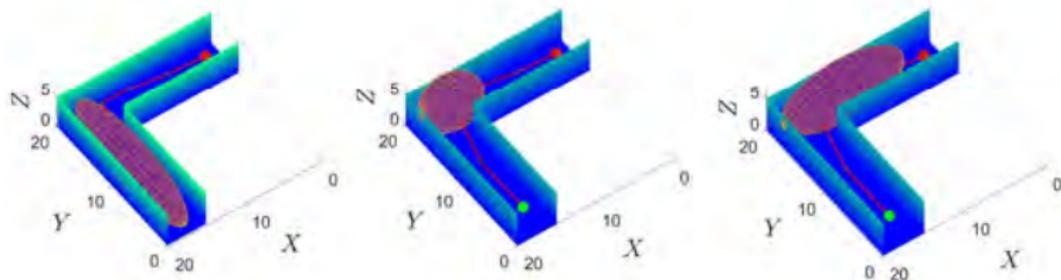
- 1 Employ semi-definite programming (SDP) to find ellipsoid

$$\{w \in \mathbb{R}^3 : (w - r_k(i\Delta T))^T P_k(i\Delta T)(w - r_k(i\Delta T)) + c_k(i\Delta T) \leq 0\},$$

containing the UAV & tangent to 1 occupied voxel

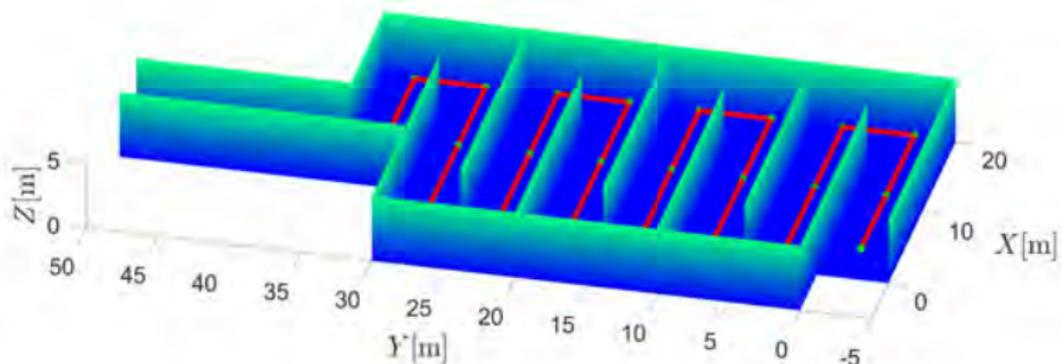
- Discrimination problem

- 2 Discretize this ellipsoid



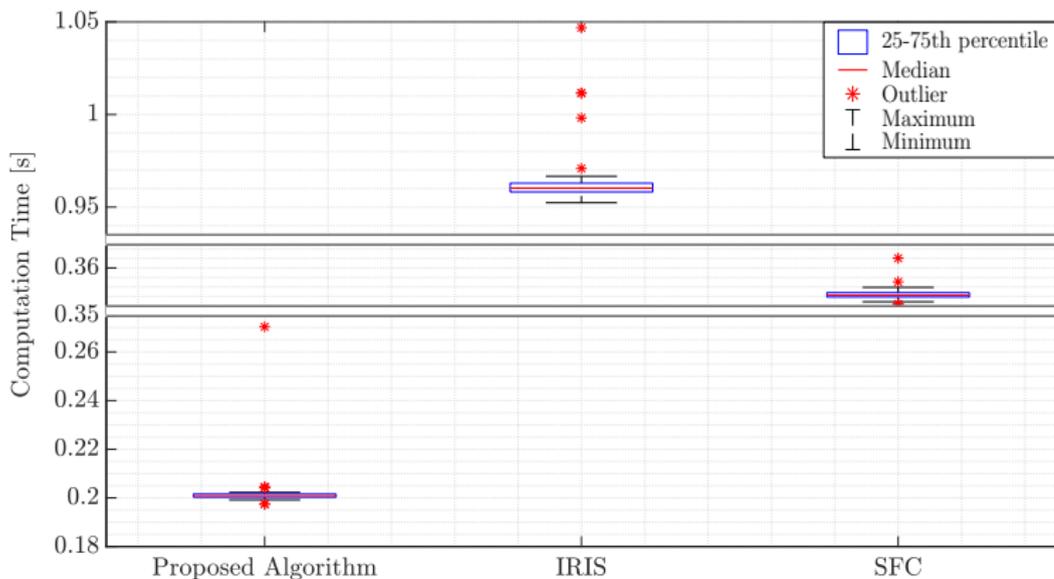
Comparison with IRIS & SFC

50 simulations & 24 waypoints in S-shaped hallway



Comparison with IRIS & SFC

50 SIL simulations & 24 waypoints in S-shaped hallway



Tactical Trajectory Planning I

Cost function:

$$\tilde{J}[\hat{r}_k, u_k(\cdot)] \triangleq \ell_f(\tilde{r}_k(n_t \Delta T)) + \sum_{i=0}^{n_t-1} \tilde{\ell}(r_k(i \Delta T), u_k(i \Delta T)),$$

where

$$\tilde{\ell}(\tilde{r}_k, u_k) \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{r}_k \\ u_k \end{bmatrix}^T \tilde{R} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{r}_k \\ u_k \end{bmatrix} + \tilde{q}_r^T \tilde{r}_k + \tilde{q}_u^T u_k,$$

$$\ell_f(r_k) \triangleq (r_k - \hat{r}_{k+1})^T R_{r,f} (r_k - \hat{r}_{k+1}) + q_{r,f}^T (r_k - \hat{r}_{k+1}),$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{r}_k(i \Delta T) \triangleq & \mu_4 [r_k(i \Delta T) - \hat{r}_{k+1}] \\ & + (1 - \mu_4) f_{\text{sat}}(\mu_5(\hat{r}_k - r_{\mathcal{O}})) [r_k(i \Delta T) - r_{\mathcal{O}}], \end{aligned}$$

$$f_{\text{sat}}(w) \triangleq \text{sat}(\|w\|) / \|w\|$$

Tactical Trajectory Planning II

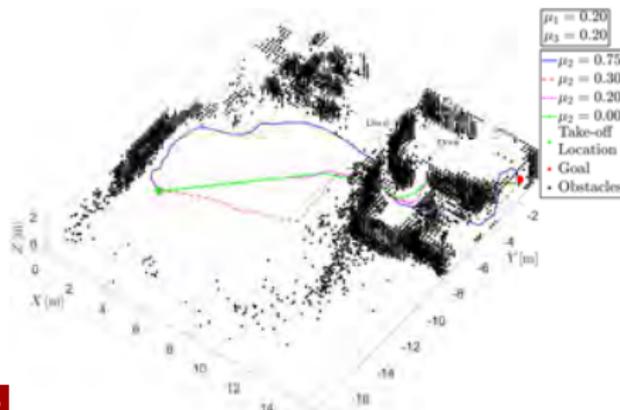
Dynamic Constraints:

$$x_k((j+1)\Delta T) = Ax_k(j\Delta T) + Bu_k(j\Delta T),$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} r_k(i\Delta T) \\ v_k(i\Delta T) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r_{\text{init}} - r_e \\ v_{\text{init}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} r_k(n_t\Delta T) \\ v_k(n_t\Delta T) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{r}_{k+1} - r_e \\ v_{\text{end}} \end{bmatrix},$$

Collision avoidance, saturation & pointing constraints:

$$F_k(i\Delta T) \begin{bmatrix} x_k(j\Delta T) \\ u(j\Delta T) \end{bmatrix} \leq f_k(i\Delta T),$$



Fast Trajectory Planning

Reduce MPC problem to QP with block-tridiagonal matrices

$$\begin{aligned} \min l_{i,\text{lb}}(z_{i,k}) &\triangleq z_{i,k}^T H_{i,k} z_{i,k} + g_{i,k}^T z_{i,k} + \nu_1 f_{\text{lb}}(z_{i,k}) \\ &+ \sum_{q=1}^{(l+10)(n_t-i)} \frac{1}{\nu_{4,i,k,q}} \log \left(1 + e^{\nu_{4,i,k,q} [p_{i,k,q} z_i - \hat{h}_{i,k,q}]} \right) \end{aligned}$$

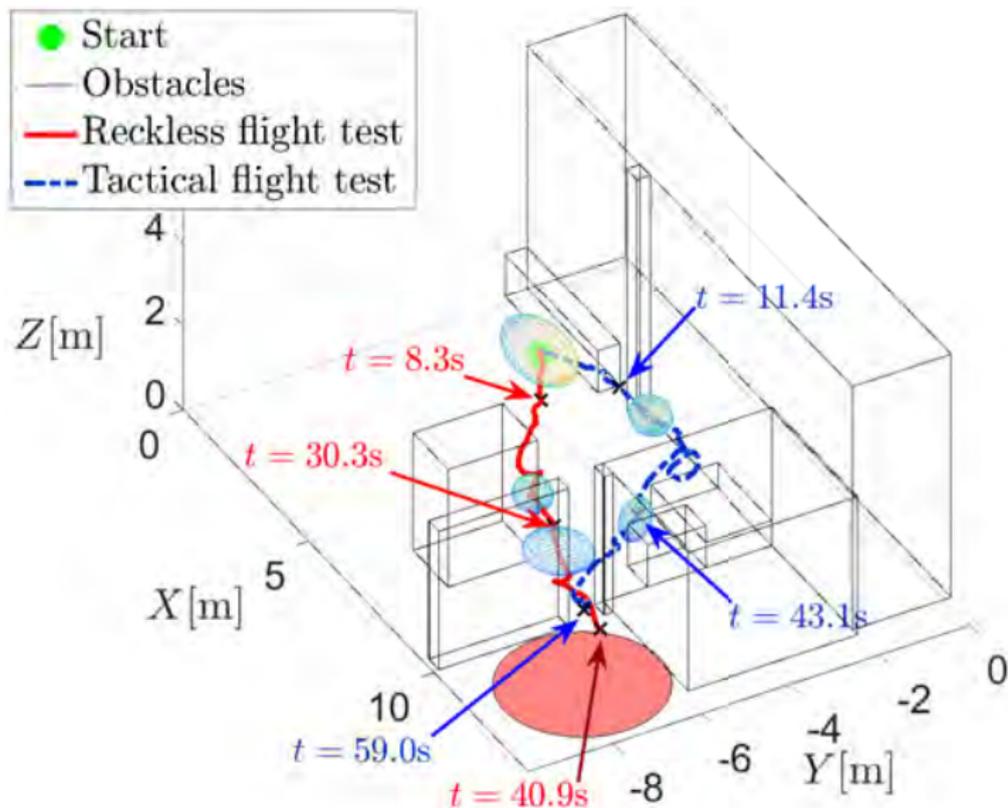
$$\text{s.t. } C_i z_{i,k} = b_{i,k},$$

where hard inequality constraints are captured by

$$f_{\text{lb}}(z_{i,k}) \triangleq - \sum_{q=1}^{(l+10)(n_t-i)} \log (h_{i,k,q} - p_{i,k,q} z_i)$$

- **Soft constraints:** Kreisselmeier-Steinhauser function avoids buffers & keep banded structure

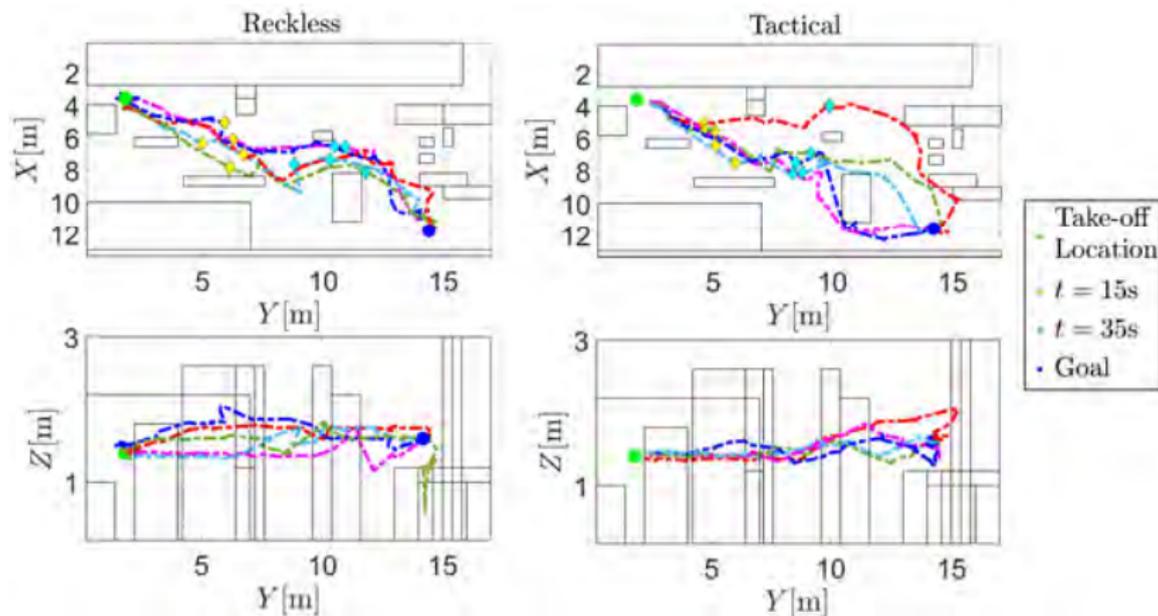
Flight Tests Results – Overview



Selected Flight Test Results I

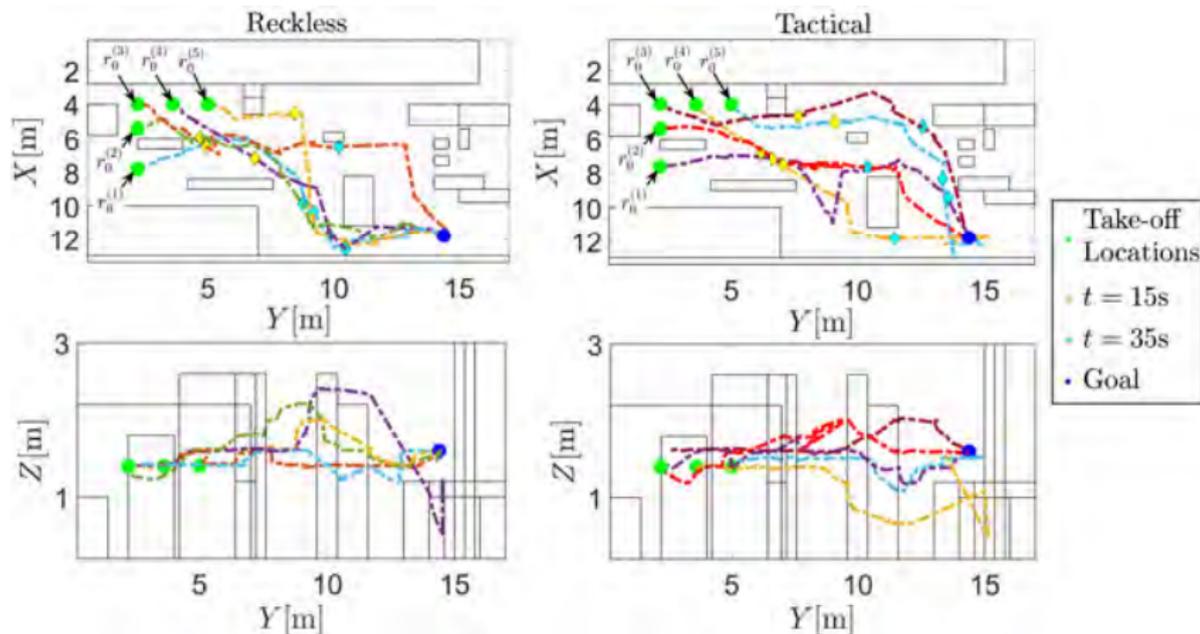
5 tactical & 5 reckless flight tests

- Tactical flights **coast obstacles more**;
- Tactical flights are **less predictable**;

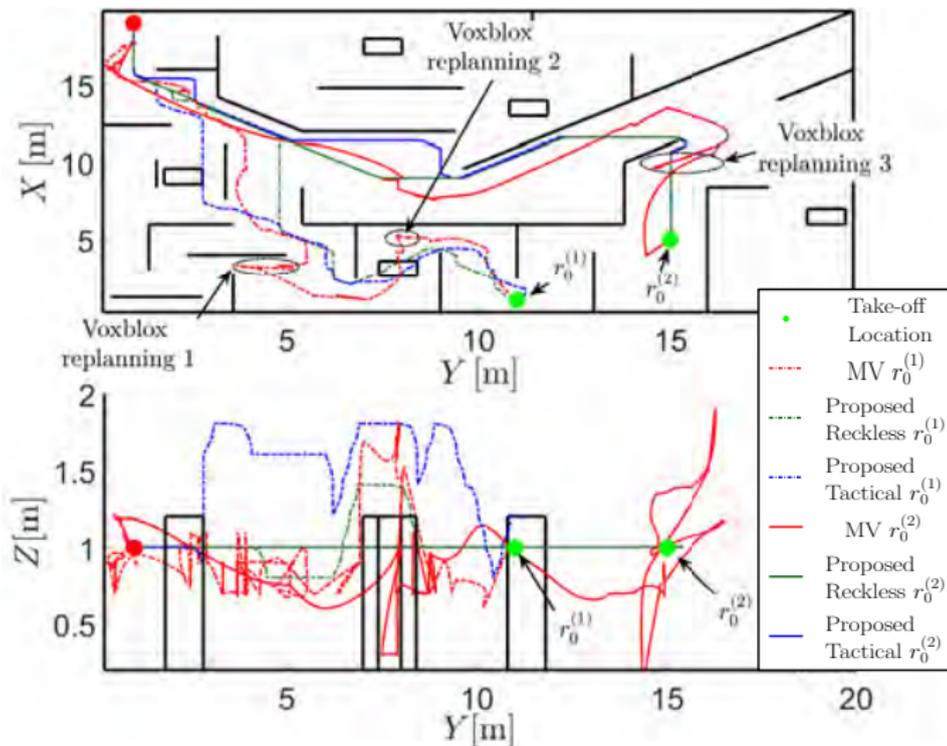


Selected Flight Test Results II

Tactical & reckless flight tests with 5 initial conditions



Comparison with Voxblox Planner (ETH)



Project 2: Prescribed Performance MRAC

Quick overview of *model reference adaptive control*:

Find a control law for the plant

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + B\Lambda [u(t) + \Theta^T \Phi(t, x(t))],$$

so that $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|x(t) - x_{\text{ref}}(t)\| = 0$, where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ & $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times m}$ are **unknown** &

$$\dot{x}_{\text{ref}}(t) = A_{\text{ref}}x_{\text{ref}}(t) + B_{\text{ref}}r(t),$$

Solution: Set $u(t) = \hat{K}^T(t)\pi(t, x(t), r(t))$, where

$$\dot{\hat{K}}(t) = -\Gamma \pi(t, x(t), r(t))e^T(t)PB$$

$$\pi(t, x, r) \triangleq [x^T, r^T, -\Phi^T(t, x)]^T,$$

$$e(t) \triangleq x(t) - x_{\text{ref}}(t)$$



MRAC: Transient Challenges

- “Large” Γ needed for fast adaptation to rapidly varying $r(t)$
- Tracking error dynamics is as fast as reference model
 - Reference models' transient dynamics is missed



Two-Layer MRAC

Theorem

Introduce reference model for the transient

$$\dot{e}_{\text{ref,transient}}(t) = A_{\text{transient}} e_{\text{ref,transient}}(t)$$

s.t. $\text{Re}(\lambda_{\max}(A_{\text{transient}})) < \text{Re}(\lambda_{\min}(A_{\text{ref}}))$. Set
 $u(t) = \hat{K}^T(t)\pi(t, x(t), r(t)) + \hat{K}_g^T(t)e(t),$

$$\dot{\hat{K}}(t) = -\Gamma \pi(t, x(t), r(t)) \varepsilon^T(t) P_{\text{transient}} B,$$

$$\dot{\hat{K}}_g(t) = -\Gamma_g e(t) \varepsilon^T(t) P_{\text{transient}} B,$$

$$\varepsilon(t) \triangleq e(t) - e_{\text{ref,transient}}(t)$$

Then, $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e(t) = 0$ & $\alpha_{\max}(e(\cdot)) \geq -\text{Re}(\lambda_{\max}(A_{\text{ref}}))$

Control of Quad-Biplanes

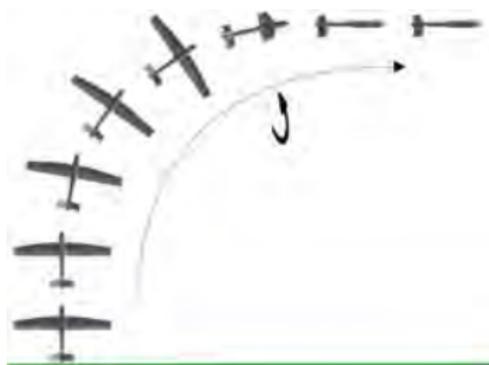
Design controller for VTOL UAV

- Uncertainties in aerodynamic models
- Lack of control surfaces
- Nonlinear dynamics



Tailsitter 6-DOF unified control system

- Design **unified control system** for tailsitters;
 - Does not distinguish among flight modes
 - Does not distinguish between lateral and longitudinal dynamics
- **Two-layer MRAC** framework;
- **Avoids unwinding** by leveraging barrier functions;
- Novel method for **deducing reference angular velocities**.



Problem Setup

- Four orthonormal reference frames;
 - Inertial: $\mathbb{I} = \{O; X, Y, Z\}$,
 - Body: $\mathbb{J} = \{C(\cdot); x_{\mathbb{J}}(\cdot), y_{\mathbb{J}}(\cdot), z_{\mathbb{J}}(\cdot)\}$,
 - Wind: $\mathbb{W} = \{C(\cdot); x_{\mathbb{W}}(\cdot), y_{\mathbb{W}}(\cdot), z_{\mathbb{W}}(\cdot)\}$.
 - Desired: $\mathbb{K} = \{r_{\text{ref}}(\cdot); x_{\mathbb{K}}(\cdot), y_{\mathbb{K}}(\cdot), z_{\mathbb{K}}(\cdot)\}$.
- Euler parameters used to capture orientation:
 $q(t) \triangleq [q_1(t), q_v^T(t)]^T$.
- Tracking error quaternion: $q_e(t) \triangleq q^{-1}(t) * q_{\text{ref}}(t)$.
- We want \mathbb{J} to track \mathbb{K} & avoid the unwinding phenomenon.

Dynamic Equations

- Translational **equations of motion**

$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}}_C^{\mathbb{I}}(t) = \frac{1}{m} \left[F_T^{\mathbb{I}}(t) + mg\mathbf{e}_{3,3} + F_A^{\mathbb{I}}(t, \mathbf{p}(t), \mathbf{p}_{\text{dot}}(t)) \right],$$

- Mass $m > 0$ is unknown, $F_T(t) \triangleq u_1(t)\mathbf{e}_{1,3}$ & $F_A^{\mathbb{I}}(\cdot)$ is aerodynamic force.
- Rotational **dynamic equations**

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}}(t) = I^{-1} \left[M_T(t) + M_A(t, \mathbf{p}(t), \mathbf{p}_{\text{dot}}(t)) - \boldsymbol{\omega}^\times(t)I\boldsymbol{\omega}(t) \right],$$

- I is matrix of inertia, $M_T \triangleq [u_2(t), u_3(t), u_4(t)]^T$ is moment of the thrust force & $M_A(\cdot)$ is aerodynamic moment

Control Design

- Quadbiplanes are **underactuated**, cannot control x, y -position directly.
- The **control system** is separated into an **outer and inner loop**.
 - **Outer loop** computes:
 - Ideal **thrust**;
 - **Reference attitude**;
 - **Reference angular rates** to track user-defined trajectory.
 - **Inner loop** computes:
 - **moment** of the thrust force;
 - thrust **allocation**.



Outer Loop: Thrust Force Determination

- If both the **direction and magnitude of the thrust force** could be set arbitrarily

$$F_{T,\text{ideal}} = u_{\text{outer}} - R_{\mathbb{W}}^{\mathbb{J}}(\alpha, \beta)[\mathbf{e}_{1,3}, \mathbf{e}_{2,3}, 0_3] \tilde{F}_{\text{A}}^{\mathbb{W}}(t, p, p_{\text{dot}}),$$

where $\tilde{F}_{\text{A}}^{\mathbb{W}}$ is **estimate of the aerodynamic force** & u_{outer} is the **virtual control input** so that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left\| \begin{bmatrix} r_{\text{C}}(t) \\ \dot{r}_{\text{C}}(t) \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} r_{\text{user}}(t) \\ \dot{r}_{\text{user}}(t) \end{bmatrix} \right\| = 0$$

- $u_1(t)$ **must be positive**. Thrust direction set by steering the vehicle's attitude.

$$F_{T,\text{proj}}(t) \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \left[H(F_{T,\text{ideal}}^{\text{T}}(t) \mathbf{e}_{1,3}) \right] \\ 0_2 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{e}_{2,3}, \mathbf{e}_{3,3} \Big] F_{T,\text{ideal}}(t)$$

Outer Loop: Reference attitude

- Let

$$R_J^K(\tilde{q}_{\text{ref}}(t)) \triangleq u_1(t)\mathbf{e}_{1,3}F_{T,\text{proj}}^T(t) = U(t)\tilde{\Sigma}(t)V^T(t)$$

- $\tilde{\Sigma}(t) \triangleq \text{diag}\{1, 1, \det(U(t)V^T(t))\}$,
- $U, V : [t_0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$ contain **left & right singular vectors**,

$$u_1(t) = H(\|F_{T,\text{proj}}(t)\| - T_{\min})\|F_{T,\text{proj}}(t)\|$$

with $T_{\min} > 0$ minimum thrust force

- We guarantee that

$$R_J^K(\tilde{q}_{\text{ref}}(t)) = \operatorname{argmin}_{R \in SO(3)} \|u_1(t)R\mathbf{e}_{1,3} - F_{T,\text{proj}}(t)\|$$

- Orthogonal Procrustes problem

Outer Loop: Reference angular rates

- $\tilde{q}_{\text{ref}}(\cdot)$ underlying $R_{\mathbb{K}}^{\mathbb{I}}(\tilde{q}_{\text{ref}})$ is **not continuously differentiable**. Hence,

$$\omega_{\text{ref}}(t) \triangleq 2J^{\text{T}}(\tilde{q}_{\text{ref}}(t))\dot{\tilde{q}}_{\text{ref}}(t)$$

cannot be computed directly.

- Given **geodesic curve**

$$\text{slerp}(p, q, h) \triangleq p * (p^{-1} * q)^h, \quad (p, q, h) \in \mathbb{H} \times \mathbb{H} \times [0, 1].$$

- It holds that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dh} \text{slerp}(p, q, h) &= \text{slerp}(p, q, h) * \log(p^{-1} * q), \quad h \in [0, 1], \\ \frac{d^2}{dh^2} \text{slerp}(p, q, h) &= -\theta_{\text{slerp}}^2 \text{slerp}(p, q, h), \end{aligned}$$

Outer Loop: Reference angular rates

- Find $h : [0, t] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ s.t.

$$\dot{q}_{\text{ref}}(t) = J(q_{\text{ref}}(t)) [\log(q^{-1}(t) * q_{\text{ref}}(t))]_{\text{v}} \left. \frac{dh(\tau)}{d\tau} \right|_{\tau=t},$$
$$\ddot{q}_{\text{ref}}(t) = J(q_{\text{ref}}(t)) [\log(q^{-1}(t) * q_{\text{ref}}(t))]_{\text{v}} \left. \frac{d^2h(\tau)}{d\tau^2} \right|_{\tau=t} - \theta_{\text{slerp}}^2(t) q_{\text{ref}}(t) \left(\left. \frac{dh(\tau)}{d\tau} \right|_{\tau=t} \right)^2,$$



Outer Loop: Deducing $\frac{dh(\tau)}{d\tau}$ and $\frac{d^2h(\tau)}{d\tau^2}$

- MPC Problem: Minimize

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n_t} \begin{bmatrix} \Omega_{\text{ref},i} \\ \dot{\Omega}_{\text{ref},i} \end{bmatrix}^T \ominus \begin{bmatrix} \Omega_{\text{ref},i} \\ \dot{\Omega}_{\text{ref},i} \end{bmatrix}$$

s.t.

$$H_{i+1} = H_i + H_{i,\text{dot}}\delta t + \frac{1}{2}H_{i,\text{ddot}}\delta t^2, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, n_t - 1\},$$

$$H_{i+1,\text{dot}} = H_{i,\text{dot}} + H_{i,\text{ddot}}\delta t, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, n_t - 1\},$$

$$\Omega_{\text{ref},i} = 2[\log(q^{-1}(t) * q_{\text{ref}}(t))]_{\text{v}} H_{i,\text{dot}}, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, n_t\},$$

$$\dot{\Omega}_{\text{ref},i} = 2[\log(q^{-1}(t) * q_{\text{ref}}(t))]_{\text{v}} H_{i,\text{ddot}}, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, n_t\},$$

$$H_1 = 0,$$

$$H_{n_t} = 1,$$

$$H_i \in [0, 1], \quad i \in \{2, \dots, n_t - 1\},$$



MRAC System Design

- Let $\hat{I} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$ be an **estimate of the matrix of inertia** I
- $\tilde{M}_A(t, p, p_{\text{dot}})$ be an **estimate of the moment of the aerodynamic force**

$$M_T(t) = u_{\text{inner}}(t) + \omega^\times(t)\hat{I}\omega(t) - \tilde{M}_A(t, p(t), p_{\text{dot}}(t))$$

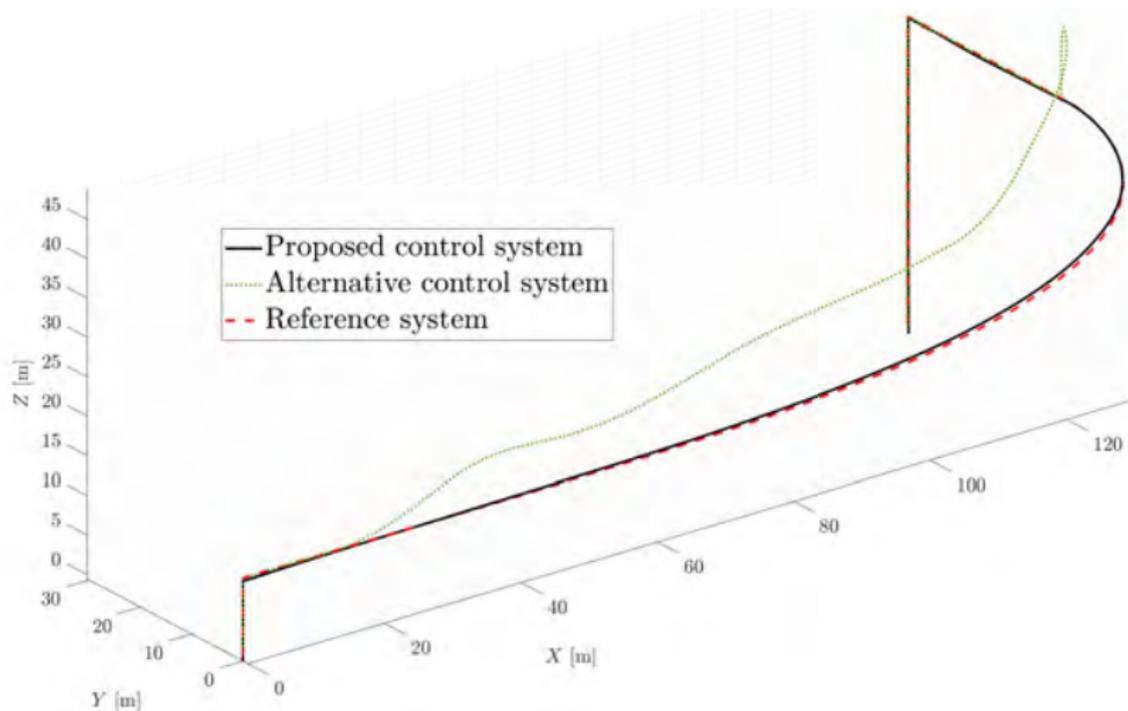
- The **equations of motion** reduce to

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_C(t) &= A_C x_C(t) + B_C \Lambda_C [u_{\text{outer}}^{\mathbb{I}}(t) + \Theta_{\text{outer}}^T \Phi_{\text{outer}}(t, p(t), p_{\text{dot}}(t))] \\ \dot{\omega}(t) &= I^{-1} [u_{\text{inner}}(t) + \Theta_{\text{inner}}^T \Phi_{\text{inner}}(t, p(t), p_{\text{dot}}(t))]\end{aligned}$$

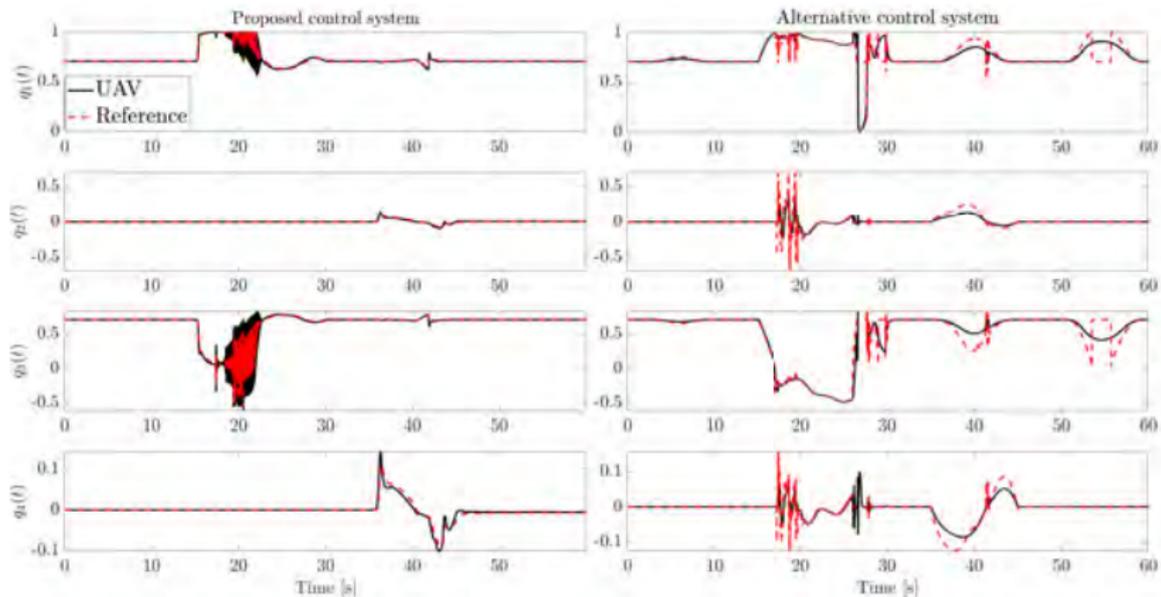
$$\text{where } x_C(t) \triangleq \left[(r_C^{\mathbb{I}}(t))^T, (\dot{r}_C^{\mathbb{I}}(t))^T \right]^T.$$

- **MRAC form!**

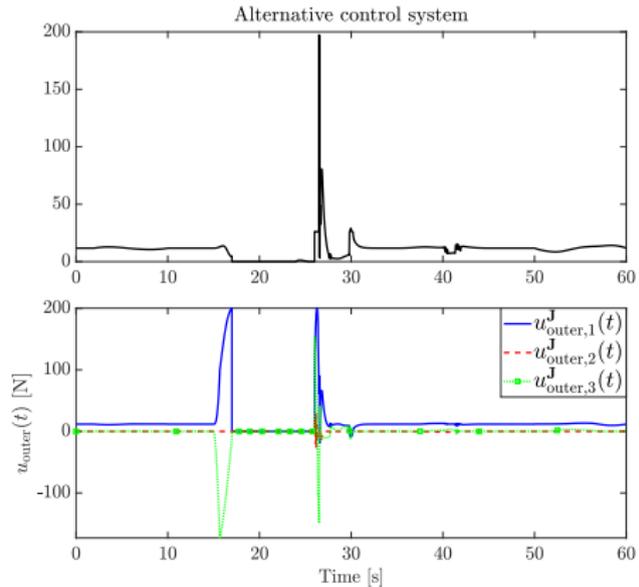
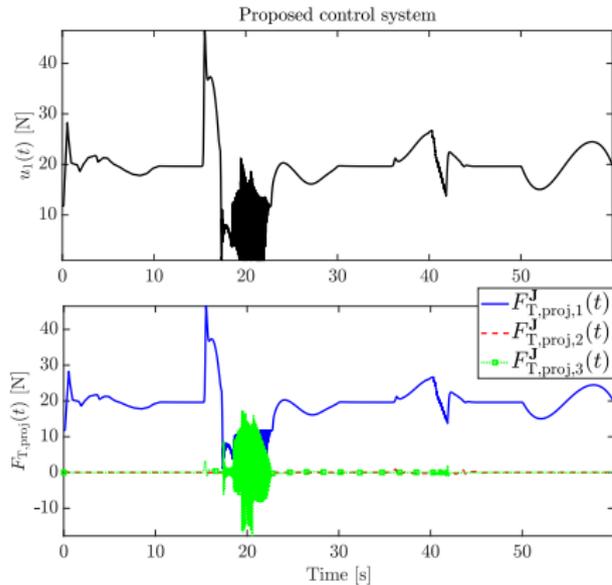
Numerical simulations: Path



Numerical simulations: Attitude



Numerical simulations: Thrust



Preliminary Flight Test: Classical MRAC

YouTube Video

Link



Project 3: MRAC for Switched Systems

Find a control law for the plant

$$\dot{x}(t) = A_{\sigma(t)}x(t) + B_{\sigma(t)} [u(t) + \Theta^T \Phi_{\sigma(t)}(t, x(t))],$$

where $A_s \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ & $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times m}$ are **unknown** so that $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|x(t) - x_{\text{ref}}(t)\| = 0$,

$$\dot{x}_{\text{ref}}(t) = A_{\text{ref},\sigma(t)}x_{\text{ref}}(t) + B_{\text{ref},\sigma(t)}r(t),$$

Note

- Same framework can be employed for $\Theta_{\sigma(t)}$
- Switching time $\sigma(\cdot)$ is known w.l.o.g.
 - Uncertainties in $\sigma(\cdot)$ embedded in A & Θ

Carathéodory & Filippov Frameworks

Consider the switched system

$$\dot{x}(t) = f_{\sigma(t)}(t, x(t)),$$

- **Carathéodory solution:**

$$x(t) = x_0 + \int_{t_0}^t f_{\sigma(\tau)}(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau, \quad t \geq t_0 \text{ a.e.}$$

- **Filippov solution:** If $\exists : x : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ absolutely continuous and s.t.

$$\dot{x}(t) \in K[f_{\sigma(t)}](t, x(t)), \quad t \in \mathcal{I} \text{ a.e.,}$$

where $t_0 \in \mathcal{I}$

$$K[f_s](t, x) \triangleq \bigcap_{\delta > 0} \bigcap_{\mu(\mathcal{N})=0} \overline{\text{co}}(f_s(t, \mathcal{B}_\delta(x) \setminus \mathcal{N})), \quad (s, t, x) \in \Sigma \times [t_0, \infty) \times \mathcal{D},$$

then, $x(\cdot)$ is a *Filippov solution*

Switched MRAC in Carathéodory Framework

Theorem

Consider $u(t) = \phi(\hat{\Theta}(t), \tilde{\Phi}_{\sigma(t)}(t, x(t)))$ with

$$\phi(\hat{\Theta}, \tilde{\Phi}_s) = \hat{\Theta}^T \tilde{\Phi}_s,$$

$$\dot{\hat{\Theta}}(t) = -\Gamma \tilde{\Phi}_{\sigma(t)}(t, x(t)) e^T(t) P B_{\sigma(t)},$$

$$\tilde{\Phi}_s(t, x) \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{I}(s) \otimes x \\ \mathcal{I}(s) \otimes r(t) \\ -\Phi_s(t, x) \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{I}(s) \triangleq [\mathbf{1}_{\{s \in \Sigma: s-1=0\}}(s), \dots, \mathbf{1}_{\{s \in \Sigma: s-\bar{\sigma}=0\}}(s)]^T$$

Switched MRAC in Carathéodory Framework (cont'd)

Theorem (cont'd)

If dwell time $t_d > 0$ & \exists symmetric P.D. matrices $P, Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ s.t.

$$A_{\text{ref},s}^T P + P A_{\text{ref},s} < -Q, \quad s \in \Sigma$$

Then, both $e(\cdot)$ & $\hat{\Theta}(\cdot)$ are bounded uniformly in both $t_0 \in [0, \infty)$ & $\sigma(\cdot)$, & $e(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ uniformly in both t_0 and $\sigma(\cdot)$

Remark

To prove this result, we extended the LaSalle-Yoshizawa theorem to switched systems in Carathéodory framework

Switched MRAC in Filippov Framework

Theorem

Consider $u(t) = \phi(\hat{\Theta}(t), \tilde{\Phi}_{\sigma(t)}(t, x(t)))$ with $\sigma(\cdot)$ Lebesgue integrable

$$\phi(\hat{\Theta}, \tilde{\Phi}_s) = \hat{\Theta}^T \tilde{\Phi}_s,$$

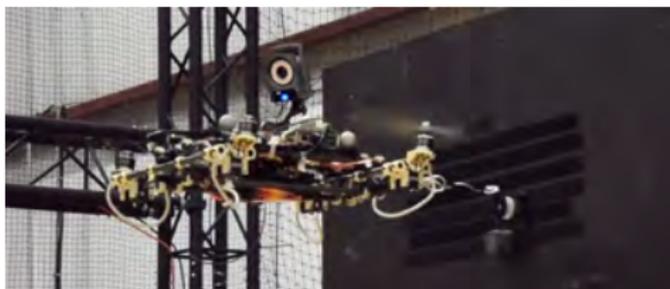
$$\dot{\hat{\Theta}}(t) = -\Gamma \tilde{\Phi}_{\sigma(t)}(t, x(t)) e^T(t) P B_{\sigma(t)},$$

$$\tilde{\Phi}_s(t, x) \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{I}(s) \otimes x \\ \mathcal{I}(s) \otimes r(t) \\ -\Phi_s(t, x) \end{bmatrix},$$

Both $e(\cdot)$ & $\hat{\Theta}(\cdot)$ are bounded uniformly in $t_0 \in [0, \infty)$ & $\sigma(\cdot)$, & $e(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ uniformly in t_0 and $\sigma(\cdot)$

Note: $t_d = 0$ is allowed! Uniqueness of solution *not* guaranteed.

UAVs for Sensor Mounting



Design controller for Tiltrotor UAV

- Switched dynamical models
- Parametric Uncertainties
- Nonlinear dynamics

UAVs for Sensor Mounting

Equations of motion

Switching between **tilt-rotor mode** & **cantilever beam** modes

$$\mathcal{H}_{\sigma(t)} \mathcal{M}(q(t)) \begin{bmatrix} \dot{v}_A^{\parallel}(t) \\ \dot{\omega}(q(t), \dot{q}(t)) \end{bmatrix} = \mathcal{H}_{\sigma(t)} \left(\begin{bmatrix} f_{\text{dyn,tran}}(t, q(t), \dot{q}(t)) \\ f_{\text{dyn,rot}}(t, q(t), \dot{q}(t)) \end{bmatrix} + G(q(t))u(t) \right),$$

where

$$\mathcal{H}_s \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1}_{\{s \in \Sigma: s-1=0\}}(s) l_3 & \mathbf{0}_{3 \times 3} \\ \mathbf{0}_{3 \times 3} & \mathcal{I}_{\text{rot}}(s) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{M}(q) \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} ml_3 & -mR(q)r_C^{\times} \\ mr_C^{\times} R^T(q) & \mathcal{J} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$f_{\text{dyn,tran}}(t, q, \dot{q}) \triangleq F_g^{\parallel} - mR(q)\omega^{\times}(q, \dot{q})\omega^{\times}(q, \dot{q})r_C,$$

$$f_{\text{dyn,rot}}(t, q, \dot{q}) \triangleq -\omega^{\times}(q, \dot{q})\mathcal{J}\omega(q, \dot{q}) - \sum_{i=1}^4 \left[\mathcal{J}_{P_i}(t)\dot{\omega}_{P_i}(t) + \omega_{P_i}^{\times}(t)\mathcal{J}_{P_i}(t)\omega_{P_i}(t) \right]$$

$$- \omega^{\times}(q, \dot{q}) \sum_{i=1}^4 \mathcal{J}_{P_i}(t)\omega_{P_i}(t) + r_C^{\times} R^T(q)F_g^{\parallel},$$

$$G(q) \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} R(q) \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}_{1,3} & \mathbf{e}_{3,3} \end{bmatrix} & \mathbf{0}_{3 \times 3} \\ \mathbf{0}_{3 \times 2} & l_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

UAVs for Sensor Mounting – Flight Tests

Apply feedback-linearizing control law

$$\beta_s(t, q, q_{\text{ref}}, w) \triangleq h \left(- \begin{bmatrix} f_{\text{dyn,tran}}(t, q, \dot{q}) \\ f_{\text{dyn,rot}}(t, q, \dot{q}) \end{bmatrix} + \mathcal{M}(q) \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1}_3 & 0_{3 \times 3} \\ 0_{3 \times 3} & \Gamma^{-1}(q) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \left[\ddot{q}_{\text{ref}} - \begin{bmatrix} 0_{3 \times 1} \\ \dot{\Gamma}(q)\omega(q, \dot{q}) \end{bmatrix} - [K_{P,s}, K_{D,s}] \begin{bmatrix} q - q_{\text{ref}} \\ \dot{q} - \dot{q}_{\text{ref}} \end{bmatrix} + w \right] \right),$$

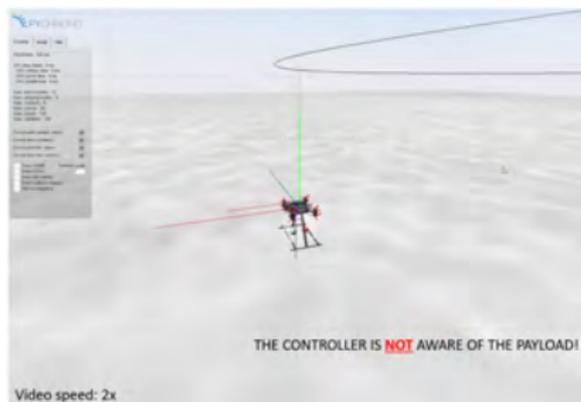
Apply switched MRAC law to design w

YouTube Video

Link

Ongoing Research

- Hybrid MRAC & UAV Control
 - Unsteady payload delivery
 - Improved tracking performance
- UAVs in caves and mines
 - Very challenging environment (unstructured, windy, dark,...)
 - UAVs to explore mine in visible range & with ground penetrating radar
- Integrated guidance (MPC) & control (MRAC)
- MRAC on infinite-dimensional spaces
 - What if we do not know anything about functional uncertainties?



We Are Hiring!

Looking for Graduate Students (MS/Ph.D.)

- Motivated
- Interested in
 - Control theory/Applied math
 - Robotics
 - Matlab & C++ or Python
- Topics:
 - Hybrid systems
 - Very high-fidelity simulations
 - Guidance & control integration
 - VTOL UAVs for Shipboard Landing
 - UAV & UGV formations in contested environments



Thanks to Students

Former Ph.D. Students

- Dr. Robert B. Anderson
- Dr. Julius A. Marshall

M.S. Students

- Shardul Amrite -- M.S. in ME
- Grant I. Carter -- M.S. in ME
- Rishabh Chaurse -- M.S. in ME
- Sean E. Eagen -- M.S. in ME
- Christopher H. Miller -- M.S. in ME
- Japnit Sethi -- M.Eng. in ECE
- Timothy A. Blackford -- M.S. in AE
- John-Paul P. Burke -- M.S. AE
- Coleton Domann -- M.S. AE
- Joshua Karinshak -- M.S. ME
- Soni Ravi -- M.S. ECE

Current Graduate Students

- Mattia Gramuglia – ME, Ph.D.
- Giri Mugundan Kumar – ME, Ph.D.
- Jyotirmoy Mukherjee – ME, Ph.D.
- Haoran Wang – ME, Ph.D.
- Hannah White – ME, Ph.D.
- Paul Binder – AE, MS
- Brian Scurlock – ME, MS
- Sanjana Sanjay Dhulla – CS, MS
- Soha Kshirsagar – CS, MS
- Hudson Smith – MS, ME
- Hyndavi Venkatreddygari – ECE, MEng

Selected B.S. Students

- Siddart Ashok – AE
- Casper Gleich – ISE
- Freddie Mistichelli – AE
- Jorge Flores-Portillo – ECE
- Megan Schneider – ISE
- Ryan Pecoraro – AE
- Adam Tyler – ME
- Ryan Gannon – AE
- Lauren Ingmire – AE
- Haydn Kirkpatrick – ME



Thanks to Funding Agencies & Collaborators



Questions?



- Email: a.lafflitto@vt.edu
- WEB: <https://lafflitto.com>

