



Flatness-based nonlinear control strategies for trajectory tracking of quadcopter systems under faults

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Quadcopter trajectory tracking

Quadcopters have a long history

Breguet-Richet Gyroplane No.1 1907



Oemichen No.2 1920



DJI Phantom 4



Quadcopters have a long history

Breguet-Richet Gyroplane No.1 1907



Bitcraze Crazyfile 2.0

Oemichen No.2 1920



DJI Phantom 4



Ambulance Drone



Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey





Outline

Quadcopter modelling

- Kinematics
- Dynamics
- 2 Differential flatness characterization
 - Flat output description of the quadcopter system
- Ontrol design for trajectory tracking
- Simulation results
- Conclusions and future developments

Kinematics

Kinematics of quadcopter

Euler ZYX (ψ, θ, ϕ) rotation sequence:



Kinematics of quadcopter

Euler ZYX (ψ, θ, ϕ) rotation sequence:



Kinematics

Kinematics of quadcopter

Euler ZYX (ψ, θ, ϕ) rotation sequence:



$${}^{I}_{B}R = R_{Z}(\psi)R_{Y}(\theta)R_{X}(\phi) = egin{bmatrix} c heta c h$$

The angular velocity ${}^{B}\vec{\omega}$ physically measured by the gyroscope ${}^{B}\vec{\omega} \triangleq (\omega_{x} \ \omega_{y} \ \omega_{z})^{T}$ is expressed in term of 3 Euler angles $\eta \triangleq (\phi, \theta, \psi)^{T}$ as:

$${}^{B}\overrightarrow{\omega} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -s\theta \\ 0 & c\phi & s\phi c\theta \\ 0 & -s\phi & c\phi c\theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\phi} \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} = W\dot{\eta}$$

Dynamics

Forces and torques created by the 4 propellers



Aerodynamic forces and torques (Spakovszky (2007)):

$$f_i = K_T \omega_i^2$$

 $au_i pprox (-1)^i b \omega_i^2$

Total thrust force and torques acting on the quadcopter (Formentin and Lovera (2011)):

$$T = \sum_{i=1}^{4} f_i = K_T \sum_{i=1}^{4} \omega_i^2$$

$$\tau_{\phi} = Lf_4 - Lf_2 = LK_T (\omega_4^2 - \omega_2^2)$$

$$\tau_{\theta} = Lf_3 - Lf_1 = LK_T (\omega_3^2 - \omega_1^2)$$

$$\tau_{\psi} = \sum_{i=1}^{4} \tau_i = b (-\omega_1^2 + \omega_2^2 - \omega_3^2 + \omega_4^2)$$

Newton-Euler formalism

Translation equation:

$$m\ddot{\xi} = m\overrightarrow{g} + (_{B}^{\prime}R)\overrightarrow{T} + \overrightarrow{F_{D}},$$

where $\xi \triangleq (x, y, z)^T$ represents the position of the quadcopter in the IF, *m* is the system mass, \vec{T} is the thrust force in BF and $\vec{F_D}$ is the external perturbation force.



Rotation equation:

$${}^{B}I^{B}\overrightarrow{\omega} + {}^{B}\overrightarrow{\omega} \times ({}^{B}I^{B}\overrightarrow{\omega}) = \tau_{\eta},$$

E

where ^BI is a diagonal inertial matrix, $\tau_{\eta} \triangleq (\tau_{\phi}, \tau_{\theta}, \tau_{\psi})^{T}$ gathers the roll, pitch and yaw torques and '×' denotes the cross-product of two vectors.

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Quadcopter modelling

- Differential flatness characterization
 - Differential flatness
 - B-spline curves
 - Constrained parametrization

3 Flat output description of the quadcopter system

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Flat systems and their trajectories

Consider the continuous nonlinear system

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t)),$$

it is called differentially flat if there exist z(t) s.t. the states and inputs can be algebraically expressed in terms of z(t) and a finite number of its derivatives:



where

$$z(t) = \gamma(x(t), u(t), \dot{u}(t), \cdots, u^{(q)}(t))$$



- For any linear and nonlinear flat system, the number of flat outputs equals the number of inputs Lévine (2009), Fliess et al. (1995)
- For linear systems, the flat differentiability is implied by the controllability property Sira-Ramírez and Agrawal (2004)

B-spline curve generation

Considering a collection of control points

$$\mathbb{P}=\{p_0,p_1,\ldots,p_n\},\$$

we rewrite the knot-vector as

$$\mathbb{T} = (\underbrace{\tau_0, \tau_1, \dots, \tau_{d-1}}_{d \text{ equal knots}}, \underbrace{\tau_d, \tau_{d+1}, \dots, \tau_{n-1}, \tau_n}_{n-d+1 \text{ internal knots}}, \underbrace{\tau_{n+1}, \tau_{n+d}}_{d \text{ equal knots}})$$

and define a *B-spline curve* as a linear combination of the control points and the B-spline basis functions

$$z(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} B_{i,d}(t) p_i = \mathbf{PB}_d(t)$$

Constrained parametrization – I

Let us consider a collection of N + 1 way-points and time stamps associated to them Prodan (2012):

$$\mathbb{W} = \{w_k\} \text{ and } \mathbb{T}_{\mathbb{W}} = \{t_k\},\$$

for any $k = 0, \ldots, N$.

The goal is to construct a flat trajectory which passes through each way-point w_k at the time instant t_k , i.e., find a flat output z(t) such that

$$\mathsf{x}(t_k) = \Theta(\mathsf{z}(t_k), \ldots \mathsf{z}^{(r)}(t_k)) = \mathsf{w}_k, \ \forall k = 0 \ldots N.$$

 $\tilde{\Theta}(\mathbf{B}_d(t_k),\mathbf{P})=w_k,\ \forall k=0\ldots N,$

where $\tilde{\Theta}(\mathbf{B}_d(t), \mathbf{P}) = \Theta(\mathbf{PB}_d(t), \dots, \mathbf{P}M_r L_r \mathbf{B}_d(t))$ is constructed along property (P5).



Constrained parametrization

Constrained parametrization – II

Solve an optimization problem Stoican et al. (2016), De Doná et al. (2009), Suryawan (2012):

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{P} &= \arg\min_{\mathbf{P}} \int_{t_0}^{t_N} || \tilde{\Xi}(\mathbf{B}_d(t), \mathbf{P})||_Q dt \\ &\text{s.t. } \tilde{\Theta}(\mathbf{B}_d(t_k), \mathbf{P}) = w_k, \ \forall k = 0 \dots N \end{split}$$

with Q a positive symmetric matrix.

- The cost Ξ̃(B_d(t), P) = Ξ(Θ̃(B_d(t), P), Φ̃(B_d(t), P)) can impose any penalization we deem to be necessary (length of the trajectory, input variation, input magnitude, etc).
- In general, such a problem is nonlinear (due to mappings $\tilde{\Theta}(\cdot)$ and $\tilde{\Phi}(\cdot)$) and hence difficult to solve.



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Differential flatness characterization

Ist output description of the quadcopter system

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Flat output description of the quadcopter system

The flat output vector is considered as:

$$\mathbf{z} = \begin{bmatrix} z_1 & z_2 & z_3 & z_4 \end{bmatrix}^\top = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & z & tan\left(\frac{\psi}{2}\right) \end{bmatrix}^\top$$

The states and inputs described in term of z:



Intensively studied trajectory generation problem

Specifications which need to be taken into account at the off-line and on-line stages:

- internal dynamics of the system
- state and input constraints fulfillment
- optimization problem such that a certain objective is minimized/maximized (e.g, length curve, total energy, dissipating energy, wind effects)
- trajectory reconfiguration mechanisms
- obstacle avoidance specifications
- multi-trajectory generation

Stoican et al. (2016), Prodan et al. (2013a), Chamseddine et al. (2012), Suryawan et al. (2011), De Doná et al. (2009), Formentin and Lovera (2011); Sydney et al. (2013)

For further use, the references for states and inputs are denoted as:

$$\begin{split} \bar{\mathbf{x}} &= \left[\bar{\boldsymbol{\xi}}^\top \ \bar{\boldsymbol{\eta}}^\top \right]^\top = \left[\bar{\mathbf{x}} \ \bar{\mathbf{y}} \ \bar{\boldsymbol{z}} \ \bar{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \ \bar{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \ \bar{\boldsymbol{\psi}} \right]^\top \\ \bar{\mathbf{u}} &= \left[\bar{\boldsymbol{T}} \ \bar{\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\phi}} \ \bar{\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\phi}} \ \bar{\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\phi}} \ \bar{\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\psi}} \right]^\top \end{split}$$

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2 Differential flatness characterization

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Ontrol design for trajectory tracking

- General control scheme
- Torque controller
- Attitude controller
- Robustness under stuck actuator fault

Simulation results

Oconclusions and future developments

General control scheme



Method:

- feedback linearization control via flatness
- computed torque control

General control scheme

Computed torque based control law

Consider the general dynamics of mechanical system:

$$M(\Phi)\ddot{\Phi}+V(\Phi,\dot{\Phi})= au_{\Phi}$$

Computed torque concept Craig (2005) considers:

$$\tau_{\Phi} = \alpha \tau' + \beta$$

where the model-based portions α, β and the servo portion τ' are given as:

$$\alpha = M(\Phi), \ \beta = V(\Phi, \dot{\Phi})$$

$$\tau' = \ddot{\Theta_r} + K_p E + K_d \dot{E} + K_i \int E dt$$

with $E = \Phi_r - \Phi$. The controlled system becomes:

$$M(q)\ddot{\Phi} + V(\Phi, \dot{\Phi}) = M(q) \left(\ddot{\Phi_r} + K_p E + K_d \dot{E} + K_i \int E dt \right) + V(\Phi, \dot{\Phi})$$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{E} + K_d \dot{E} + K_p E + K_i \int E dt = 0$$

Torque controller

Torque controller



Consider the rotational equation of the quadcopter:

B
IW $\ddot{\eta}$ + B *I* $\dot{W}\dot{\eta}$ + (*W* $\dot{\eta}$) × (B *IW* $\dot{\eta}$) = au_{η}

Applying the computed torque based control law, the input angle torques can be considered as:

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{\eta} &= {}^{B} IW \left(\ddot{\eta}_{r} + K_{p\eta} E_{\eta} + K_{d\eta} \dot{E}_{\eta} + K_{i\eta} \int E_{\eta} dt \right) + {}^{B} I \dot{W} \dot{\eta} + (W \dot{\eta}) \times ({}^{B} IW \dot{\eta}) \\ \Rightarrow \ddot{E}_{\eta} + K_{d\eta} \dot{E}_{\eta} + K_{p\eta} E_{\eta} + K_{i\eta} \int E_{\eta} dt = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Attitude controller



Consider the roll, pitch, yaw angles and input thrust T in terms of the flat output z:

$$\begin{split} \phi &= \arcsin\left(\frac{2z_4\ddot{z_1} - (1 - z_4^2)\ddot{z_2}}{(1 + z_4^2)\sqrt{\ddot{z_1}^2 + \ddot{z_2}^2 + (\ddot{z_3} + g)^2}}\right) = \Gamma_{\phi}(\ddot{z_1}, \ddot{z_2}, \ddot{z_3}, z_4)\\ \theta &= \arctan\left(\frac{(1 - z_4^2)\ddot{z_1} + 2z_4\ddot{z_2}}{(1 + z_4^2)(\ddot{z_3} + g)}\right) = \Gamma_{\theta}(\ddot{z_1}, \ddot{z_2}, \ddot{z_3}, z_4)\\ \psi &= 2\arctan(z_4) = \Upsilon_{\psi}(z_4)\\ T &= m\sqrt{\ddot{z_1}^2 + \ddot{z_2}^2 + (\ddot{z_3} + g)^2} = \Gamma_T(\ddot{z_1}, \ddot{z_2}, \ddot{z_3}) \end{split}$$

Attitude controller (cont.)



The feedback linearization based control law for attitude controller:

$$\begin{split} \phi_{ref} &= \Gamma_{\phi}(\vec{z}_{1}^{*}, \vec{z}_{2}^{*}, \vec{z}_{3}^{*}, z_{4}) \\ \theta_{ref} &= \Gamma_{\theta}(\vec{z}_{1}^{*}, \vec{z}_{2}^{*}, \vec{z}_{3}^{*}, z_{4}), \\ \psi_{ref} &= \Upsilon_{\psi}(\vec{z}_{4}), \\ T &= \Gamma_{T}(\vec{z}_{1}^{*}, \vec{z}_{2}^{*}, \vec{z}_{3}^{*}), \end{split}$$

where the corrective term $\ddot{\xi}^* \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{z_1}^* & \ddot{z_2}^* & \ddot{z_3}^* \end{bmatrix}^\top$ is given as:

$$\ddot{\xi}^* = \ddot{\xi}_{ref} + K_{d\xi}\dot{\epsilon_{\xi}} + K_{p\xi}\epsilon_{\xi} + K_{i\xi}\int\epsilon_{\xi}dt,$$

and z_4 is the real value of ψ angle.

Stuck rotor fault modeling

The rotor speed under stuck fault consideration is modeled through (Qi et al. (2013)):

$$\omega_i^f(t) = f_i(t)\omega_i(t) + (1 - f_i(t))\alpha_i\omega_{max},$$

Brushless Motor Wiring

where $f_i(t)$ is the binary fault signal and $\alpha_i \in (0, 1)$ is the constant fault magnitude.



Fault tree analysis

A FDD (Fault Detection and Diagnosis) module is used to detect, isolate, and identify the fault magnitude α_i .



- * used to ensure the quadcopter's capability of maintaining the position while waiting for the new trajectory and after finishing the tracking mission;
- ** used to ensure the tracking capability for the a priori trajectory or to generate a new feasible trajectory.

Conditions under stuck rotor fault

Hovering condition*: considering a unique *i*th rotor stuck, the quadcopter can still assume hovering if the following constraint is respected:

$$\alpha_i^2 \le \frac{mg}{2K_T\omega_{max}^2}$$

Tracking condition**: considering a unique *i*th stuck rotor we have that a sufficient condition for tracking the position component of the reference trajectory is:

$$0 \leq \min\left((MP_i)^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \bar{T} \\ \bar{\tau}_{\phi} \\ \bar{\tau}_{\theta} \end{bmatrix} - (MP_i)^{-1} MK_i \alpha_i^2 \omega_{\max}^2 \right),$$
$$\max\left((MP_i)^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \bar{T} \\ \bar{\tau}_{\phi} \\ \bar{\tau}_{\phi} \end{bmatrix} - (MP_i)^{-1} MK_i \alpha_i^2 \omega_{\max}^2 \right) \leq \omega_{\max}^2$$

where $K_i \in \mathbb{R}^4$ is the *ith* column of the identity matrix I_4 of size 4, the matrix $P_i \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 3}$ is composed of the other columns of I_4 and

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} K_T & K_T & K_T & K_T \\ 0 & -LK_T & 0 & LK_T \\ -LK_T & 0 & LK_T & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Control reconfiguration under stuck rotor

Reconfigured controller under fault of the 4th stuck rotor:



where the matrix M_4 is calculated as:

$$M_{4} = \begin{bmatrix} K_{T} & K_{T} & K_{T} & K_{T} \\ 0 & -LK_{T} & 0 & LK_{T} \\ LK_{T} & 0 & -LK_{T} & 0 \\ b & b & b \end{bmatrix}$$

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- Trajectory tracking

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Waypoint trajectory generation

Generate the trajectory passing through 5 way points at specific time instants taking into account the operating constraints while minimize the length of the trajectory.



Simulation of wind disturbances:

Nominal	Moderate	Strong	
0 km/h	15.3 km/h	20.5 km/h	



Waypoint trajectory generation



Trajectory tracking

Simulation of combined flat angle and position tracking strategy in strong wind condition (20.5 km/h)

Ionela PRODAN, Grenoble INP (LCIS)

Quadcopter trajectory tracking

Trajectory tracking under stuck rotor fault

Simulation of way-point tracking under fault in strong wind conditions. The 4^{th} rotor is permanently stuck from t = 5 sec.

Ionela PRODAN, Grenoble INP (LCIS)

Quadcopter trajectory tracking

Trajectory tracking under fault of stuck rotor



Simulation parameters and IAE results

• Controller parameters:

Controller	$K_p = diag\{.\}$	$K_d = diag\{.\}$	$K_i = diag\{.\}$
Attitude	16, 16, 16	8, 8, 8	1, 1, 0.3
Torque (nominal)	25, 25, 25	10, 10, 10	0, 0, 0
Torque (fault)	25, 25	10, 10	0,0

Table: Controllers tuning parameters.

- Yalmip in Matlab/Simulink Löfberg (2004)
- Fixed sampled time of 0.01s and solver ode4
- Integral of Absolute magnitude of the Error (IAE) over the position:

$$IAE_{\xi} = \int_{t_0=0}^{t_f=10} ||\xi_r - \xi|| dt$$

	Nominal Wind	Moderate Wind	Strong Wind
Nominal case	0.0278	0.3750	0.5980
Faulty case	0.2111	0.4320	0.6221

Table: IAE results of 3 control strategies

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Conclusions and future developments

Conclusions:

- Quadcopter modeling using Newton-Euler formalism
- Novel flat output representation
- Trajectory generation problem
- Feedback linearization based control designs for trajectory tracking
- Robustness under bounded wind perturbations
- Control reconfiguration analysis under stuck rotor fault
- Extensive simulations for different wind conditions

Future development:

- MPC/NMPC implementations
- Bounded/stochastic disturbances considerations
- Trajectory reconfiguration mechanisms
- Experiments on the Crazyflie platform

⁰Prodan I., Stoican F., Olaru S. and Niculescu S-I. (2016): Mixed-Integer Representations in Control Design, SpringerBriefs in Control, Automation and Robotics Series, Springer.

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