HOW TO ADDRESS UNCERTAINTY IN SMALLER, FASTER, MORE AGILE, YET SAFER DRONES?



AARHUS UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING DIRECTOR OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ROBOTICS (AIR) LAB





IJCCI-ROBOVIS 2020 KEYNOTE NOVEMBER 4, 2020

WHO AM I?

Date	Work experience	
Apr 2018-Current	Associate Professor, Aarhus University, Department of Engineering Director of Artificial Intelligence in Robotics (AiR) Lab	3 6
Mar 2014-Mar 2018	Assistant Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering	
Sep 2011-Mar 2014	Post doctoral researcher, KU Leuven, Belgium Division of Mechatronics, Biostatistics and Sensors (MeBioS)	
Date	Education	

Sep 2011	Ph.D. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Bogazici University, Istanbul
Jan 2016	M.Sc. in Systems and Control Engineering, Bogazici University, Istanbul
Jun 2003	B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul





RESEARCH **PROJECTS**

Date	Ongoing
Dec 2020 – Dec 2024	Reliable AI for Marine Robotics (ReMaRo) by Horizon 2020 - H2020-MSCA-ITN-2020, European Union
Jan 2020 – jan 2023	Open Deep Learning toolkit for Robotics (OpenDR) by Robotics Core Technology ICT-10-2019-2020, European Union
Apr 2020 – Jun 2021	Smart Parking System for Vessels and Ports by European Regional Development Fund
Jun 2020 – Jun 2021	Vision-based inspection navigation algorithm for ship inspection by European Regional Development Fund
Jan 2021 – Jan 2022	Autonomous inspection of wind turbines using drones by European Regional Development Fund

Date	Directed
Apr 2019-Dec 2019	Visualisation of Virtual Outcrops Using Aerial Robots by Technical University of Denmark, Danish Hydrocarbon Research and Technology Centre
Mar 2018 - Mar 2019	Learning-based path planning of unmanned aerial vehicles with vision-based sensing by Ministry of Education Academic Research Funding Tier 1
Jan 2016 - Apr 2018	Fuzzy neural network-based learning control of unmanned aerial vehicles by ST Eng-NTU Corporation Laboratory
Jan 2014 - Apr 2018	Design of lightweight UAV for 3D Printing by NRF Medium-Sized Centre
Jul 2015 - Dec 2017	Precise landing for unmanned aerial vehicles by ST Eng-NTU Corporation Laboratory
Jul 2015 - Jan 2017	Quality Inspection and Assessment Robot (Quicabot) by JTC Corporation - NRF Singapore
May 2014 - Mar 2017	Learning control algorithms for unmanned aerial vehicles by Nanyang Technological University (Start up grant)
Mar 2015 - Aug 2017	Model predictive control-moving horizon estimation framework as applied to tilt rotor UAVs and its experimental evaluation by Ministry of Education Academic Research Funding Tier 1
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MY MOTIVATION FOR ROBOTICS

ESSENTIAL UNITS IN ROBOTS





FIXED WING AND MULTI-ROTOR UAVS

Multi-rotor UAVs

Airbus electrical aerial taxi





Uber aerial taxi designs





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AUTONOMY VERSUS SIZE



BATTERY **TECHNOLOGY**





Fat (Wh/kg)= 10,000

Source: Prof. Vijay Kumar, ICRA 2019 Keynote Speech



WHAT KIND OF ONBOARD SENSORS?

Why is vision more popular?



WHY LEARNING CONTROL?

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR CONTROLLER DOES NOT WORK?





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WHY LEARNING CONTROL?

"Given, for one instant, an intelligence which could comprehend all the forces by which nature is animated and the respective situation of the beings who compose it an intelligence sufficiently vast to submit these data to analysis it would embrace in the same formula the movements of the greatest bodies of the universe and those of the lightest atom. For it, <u>nothing would be uncertain</u> and the future, as the past would be present to its eyes".

— Pierre-Simon Laplace







WHY MODEL-FREE LEARNING CONTROL?

LEARNING CONTROL USING ANNS

Artificial Neural Networks:

- The capability of handling uncertain information
- and the capability learning from input-output data



For tuning the parameters of ANNs:

1. The gradient based algorithm (include partial derivatives, the convergence speed, local minimum, etc)

2. Evolutionary approaches (the stability, computational burden)

3. Sliding mode control theory-based algorithms?

Theorem: If the adaptation laws for T2FNN parameters are chosen as:

$$\begin{split} \dot{\mathbf{c}}_{1i} &= -\beta_1 \frac{\overline{\sigma}_{1i}^2}{\mathbf{e} - \mathbf{c}_{1i}} \operatorname{sgn}(\mathbf{u}_c) \text{ and } \dot{\mathbf{c}}_{2j} = -\beta_1 \frac{\overline{\sigma}_{2j}^2}{\dot{\mathbf{e}} - \mathbf{c}_{2j}} \operatorname{sgn}(\mathbf{u}_c) \\ \dot{\underline{\sigma}}_{1i} &= -\beta_1 \frac{\underline{\sigma}_{1i}^3}{(\mathbf{e} - \mathbf{c}_{1i})^2} \operatorname{sgn}(\mathbf{u}_c) \text{ and } \dot{\underline{\sigma}}_{2j} = -\beta_1 \frac{\underline{\sigma}_{2j}^3}{(\dot{\mathbf{e}} - \mathbf{c}_{2j})^2} \operatorname{sgn}(\mathbf{u}_c) \\ \dot{\overline{\sigma}}_{1i} &= -\beta_1 \frac{\overline{\sigma}_{1i}^3}{(\mathbf{e} - \mathbf{c}_{1i})^2} \operatorname{sgn}(\mathbf{u}_c) \text{ and } \dot{\overline{\sigma}}_{2j} = -\beta_1 \frac{(\overline{\sigma}_{2j})^3}{(\dot{\mathbf{e}} - \mathbf{c}_{2j})^2} \operatorname{sgn}(\mathbf{u}_c) \\ \dot{f}_{ij} &= -\alpha \frac{q \widetilde{W}_{ij} + (1 - q) \widetilde{W}_{ij}}{(q \widetilde{W} + (1 - q) \widetilde{W})^T (q \widetilde{W} + (1 - q) \widetilde{W})} \operatorname{sgn}(\mathbf{u}_c) \\ \dot{\alpha} &= \gamma_1 |\mathbf{u}_c| - v \gamma_1 \alpha \end{split}$$

then, given an arbitrary initial condition $u_c(0)$, the learning error $u_c(t)$ will converge firmly to zero during a finite time t_h .

AARHUS

Andriy Sarabakha, Nursultan Imanberdiyev, Erdal Kayacan, Mojtaba Ahmadieh Khanesar and Hani Hagras, "Nov Levenberge Marquardt Based Learning Algorithm for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles", Information Sciences, vol.417, pp. 361-380, November 2017

Nursultan Imanberdiyev and Erdal Kayacan, "A Fast Learning Control Strategy for Unmanned Aerial Manipulators", Journal of Intelligent & Robotic Systems, vol. 94, Issue 3–4, pp. 805–824, June 2019



SOME APPLICATIONS



Novel Levenberg-Marquardt Based Learning Algorithm for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Andriy Sarabakha, Nursultan Imanberdiyev, Erdal Kayacan, Mojtaba Ahmadieh Khanesar, and Hani Hagras

March 2017



A Fast Learning Control Strategy for Unmanned Aerial Manipulators

Nursultan Imanberdiyev and Erdal Kayacan

School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

> **Department of Engineering, Aarhus University, Denmark**

> > May 2018

ONLINE TUNING OF DEEP NEURAL NETWORKS



Andriy Sarabakha and Erdal Kayacan "Online Deep Neural Networks for Improved Trajectory Tracking of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Using Expert Knowledge", 2019 International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA 2019), Montreal, Canada, pp.7727-7733, May 20-24, 2019.





Online Deep Fuzzy Learning for Control of Nonlinear Systems Using Expert Knowledge

Andriy Sarabakha and Erdal Kayacan

School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Department of Engineering, Aarhus University, Denmark

November 2018

AUTONOMOUS DRONE RACING

GATENET: EFFICIENT DEEP NEURAL NETWORK FOR GATE PERCEPTION IN AUTONOMOUS DRONE RACING





DRONE RACING

Problem: Can we fly better

– faster and safer – than a skilled drone pilot using onboard processing?





AlphaPilot — Lockheed Martin Al Drone Racing Innovation Challenge

"The AlphaPilot Innovation Challenge offers a chance for teams to master autonomous flight and win more than \$2,000,000 in cash prizes!"



DRONE RACING

How can we fly faster and safer than a human pilot?

- Sense-Plan-Act as fast/accurate as possible
- perception and action loops are coupled
- Lack of modeling
- Reduce latencies: faster sensors and/or algorithms
- Additional problems because of ultra fast speed: motion blur





MOTIVATION

- Technologies used in drone racing can help to significantly increase the airborne time and coverage of a mission.
- Fast and reliable gate perception plays a vital role in the overall success of the race.
- Problem definition: Design a perception system to perceive unknown gates in a cluttered environment, that is robust to noisy backgrounds and gate pose variations.





RELATED WORK

- Traditional CV methods tend to fail in complex background with varying lighting conditions, occlusion, and blurriness ([de Croon, 2016], [Jung 2017], [Li, 2020])
- Deep neural network (DNN) methods ([Jung, 2018], [Kaufmann, 2019]) perform more accurate and robust, but they use large network size (0.5 - 7.8 M params) and have low inference rates.







RELATED WORK

- A hybrid method that segment the 4 corners and use a DNN to associate them to a gate [Foehn, 2020], but it is expensive, and not robust if gates are too close.
- End-to-end planning methods: map image input directly to control input / actions to plan the robot ([Muller, 2018], [Camci, 2019], [Zhou, 2019]). However the actions of the robot is hard to verify.







GATENET

We propose a novel DNN, GateNet, that are:

- Accurate with equal or better performance in a wide range of different scenarios
- Has high inference rate (~ 60 Hz) on a real onboard processor
- Robust to gate pose changes and background disturbances
- Work with fisheye camera lenses with wide field-ofview (FOV) and can detect multiple gates





METHODOLOGY



- GateNet unifies predictions of (i) center, (ii) orientation, and (iii) distance of gates in a single neural network.
- The design and the number of parameters of the network enable high inference speed that is crucial for drone racing.
- it is applicable to other problem domains requiring object detection during an agile flight.



AU-DR DATASET

We propose a public dataset that focuses on gate perception in drone racing to help train and benchmark gate perception methods, available on like at: <u>https://github.com/open-airlab/GateNet.git</u>.

We explicitly label the images according to gate layouts, including images with (i) single gate, (ii) multiple gates, (iii) occlusion, (iv) partially observable gates, (v) too far gates, and (vi) too close gates





TRAINING

- Target samples for training are prepared according to the spatial layout of gates in an input image by dividing the image into grids, and assign a confidence value for each square.
- The network is trained to minimize a multi-part objective function



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= \sum_{i=0}^{R} \sum_{j=0}^{C} \lambda_{\text{coord}} \mathbb{1}_{ij}^{\text{obj}} \left[(x_{ij} - \hat{x}_{ij})^2 + (y_{ij} - \hat{y}_{ij})^2 \right] \\ &+ \sum_{i=0}^{R} \sum_{j=0}^{C} \mathbb{1}_{ij}^{\text{obj}} \left[\lambda_{\text{dist}} \left(d_{ij} - \hat{d}_{ij} \right)^2 + \lambda_{\text{ori}} \left(\theta_{ij} - \hat{\theta}_{ij} \right)^2 \right] \\ &+ \sum_{i=0}^{R} \sum_{j=0}^{C} \left[\lambda_{\text{obj}} \mathbb{1}_{ij}^{\text{obj}} + \lambda_{\text{noobj}} (1 - \mathbb{1}_{ij}^{\text{obj}}) \right] (c_{ij} - \hat{c}_{ij})^2 \end{aligned}$$



IN-HOUSE RACING DRONE

- In-house Racing Frame: 250 mm
- Autopilot: PX4 / Snapdragon Flight 820
- High frequency RGB Camera (up to 100 Hz)
- Intel Tracking camera T265
- Mass: < 1 kg, Thrust-to-weight ratio: ~ 4.0









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EVALUATION AND RESULTS

			S	ingle ga	te	m	ultiple g	ate		occlusio	n		partial		1	too close	e
method	#	fps	E_c	E_d	E_{θ}	E_c	E_d	E_{θ}	E_c	E_d	E_{θ}	E_c	E_d	E_{θ}	E_c	E_d	E_{θ}
ADRNet [3]	2,5M	14	0.04	n/a	n/a	0.09	n/a	n/a	0.07	n/a	n/a	0.05	n/a	n/a	0.04	n/a	n/a
ADRNet-mod	2,5M	14	0.07	0.14	0.04	0.15	0.35	0.10	0.12	0.34	0.08	0.09	0.22	0.07	0.08	0.18	0.09
DroNet-mod	478K	22	0.16	0.18	0.10	0.50	0.60	0.42	0.37	0.45	0.29	0.13	0.17	0.09	0.08	0.14	0.14
Morales et al. [13]	1.1M	19	0.21	0.31	n/a	0.58	1.22	n/a	0.39	0.87	n/a	0.22	0.78	n/a	0.15	0.17	n/a
Darknet-mod	7,8M	9	0.10	0.12	0.05	0.20	0.25	0.12	0.14	0.24	0.09	0.15	0.15	0.08	0.10	0.15	0.08
GateNet	32K	57	0.05	0.10	0.05	0.16	0.24	0.12	0.15	0.39	0.12	0.07	0.14	0.06	0.05	0.11	0.07

- GateNet is superior in gate distance prediction compared to other baselines, and has better performance for gate orientation prediction in challenging cases such as partially observable gates or gates that are too close to the camera
- Only ADRNet is better to find object centers than GateNet, but ADRNet uses much larger number of parameters, and cannot predict gate distance and orientation.



REAL-WORLD **EXPERIMENTS**

- We demonstrate the effectiveness of the perception system on a fully-autonomous quadrotor system that flies on previously-unknown track with tight turns in a small environment
- The prediction results of GateNet is used to back-project multiple gates's poses on 3D world frame. Extended Kalman Filters are employed to keep the predicted poses stable on a Global map.
- The drone will plan and complete the track autonomously thanks to the global map



MOTION PLANNING ARCHITECTURE

- Global planner: uses the perceived global gate map to generate a global trajectory through multiple gates.
- Local Replanner: Using a highfrequency receding horizon local planner to replan when (i) the next gate appears, (ii) there are changes in gate estimation.



REAL-WORLD EXPERIMENTS





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EVALUATION OF ROBUSTNESS

- The drone completes a race track with multiple gates where the gates are close to each other (inter-distance ~ 4.5m) at 2 m/s
- GateNet can handle position and orientation changes in-between each lap with reasonable success rates up to 2m and 30°
- It Is robust with background perturbations of human movements or gate piece disturbances.



Orientation Position	0 °	15°	30 °	45 °	60°
0.5 m	100	100	100	75	50
1.0 m	100	100	87.5	50	12.5
1.5 m	100	100	75	50	0
2.0 m	100	87.5	75	62.5	12.5



ANOMALY DETECTION USING DRONES

Taxonomy of anomalies: - Point anomalies







- Point anomalies
- Collective anomalies







- Point anomalies
- Collective anomalies
- Contextual anomalies







- Point anomalies
- Collective anomalies
- Contextual anomalies









- Point anomalies
- Collective anomalies
- Contextual anomalies









- Point anomalies
- Collective anomalies
- Contextual anomalies









Taxonomy of anomalies:

- Point anomalies
- Collective anomalies
- Contextual anomalies

Contextual anomalies are challenging:

- Requires a notion of context
- Normal region keeps change







- Contextual anomaly detection is challenging for aerial surveillance.

- Anomalies can depend on **time** and **location**.
- UAVs can be deployed to a surveillance system.
- A UAV overcomes significant limitations of current video-based surveillance systems.



Anomalies between 9AM-10AM





Contribution

CADNet: Deep neural network-based **context-aware anomaly detection method** for aerial traffic surveillance with a UAV.

In our experiments:

- Compare CADNet with state-of-the approaches:
 - Autoencoder
 - One-class Support Vector Machine
 - Generative Adversarial Networks

- Analysis of the effect of contextual attributes (time and location) to anomaly detection performance





The method: CADNet





Experiments and Results

Model		Conte	xt inp.	Skip c	Skip connections				
Name	Frame Input	GPS	Time	Main input	Context vector	Rec. error	P-Anomaly acc.	C-Anomaly acc.	
CADNet	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	0.00	91.2%	86.6%	
Autoencoder	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	0.02	17.1%	21.4%	
One-class SVM	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	0.09	72.3%	69.2%	
GAN	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	0.03	48.3%	51.2%	
Ablation experiments follow below									
CADNet-wo-gps-time	yes	no	no	yes	yes	0.00	90.2%	73.2%	
CADNet-wo-skip	yes	yes	yes	no	no	0.17	37.7%	35.0%	
CADNet-wo-skip-c	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	0.00	88.5%	76.9%	
CADNet-wo-skip-m	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	0.17	42.3%	32.9%	
CADNet-wo-time	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	0.00	91.6%	54.4%	
CADNet-wo-gps	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	0.00	88.7%	63.8%	
CADNet-wo-frame	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	0.00	88.0%	78.6%	

CADNet has better performance compared to the baselines.





Experiments and Results



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DRONE MOVIE DIRECTORS

WHY IS FILMING DIFFICULT?



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DEEP Q-LEARNING

Model-free solver using action-value function Q:

$$Q(c_t, a_t) = \sum_{t'=t}^T \mathbb{E}_{\pi_\theta} \left[R_{art}(v(c_{t'}, a_{t'})) | c_t, a_t \right]$$

Deep Q function approximator:



Two approaches for reward function:

- 1) Hand-crafted reward:
 - a) Actor's presence ratio
 - b) Shot angle
 - c) Shot type duration
 - d) Collision
- 2) Reward from human preferences:





EVALUATING THE LEARNED ARTISTIC BEHAVIOURS



Table 14: Average normalized score of video clips between 0 (worst) and 10 (best).

	Average	Scene 1	Scene 2	Scene 3	Scene 4	Scene 5
Hand-crafted reward	8.2	10.0	5.3	9.3	7.7	8.7
Human reward	7.1	5.0	9.0	6.0	7.7	8.0
Back shot	3.8	4.0	4.7	4.3	4.0	2.0
Random	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.7	1.3



SUMMARY A COMPLETE CINEMATOGRAPHY PIPELINE

Artistic reasoning

Visual detection

Mapping

Motion planning



- Shot type alterations make the video interesting.
- Keeping the actor in view is the most important criterion.
- Hand-crafted reward policy is the most exciting while the human reward policy is smooth.



WHAT IS NEXT?

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

- Not much room for further improvement for design (excluding fixed-wing VTOLs)
- Fast and nonlinear controllers are needed
- Perception and control cannot be (most of the time) separated
- Model-based and model-free methods can be used simultaneously
- Energy consumption is a big problem





AIR-LAB **TEAM**



Erdal Kayacan

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WE MISS YOU





NOT EVERYTIME EVERYTHING GOES WELL...



DITOS UNIT RESTAL

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