Experiments on 2-DOF Helicopter Using Approximate Dynamic Programming

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Outline I



Background Study

- Quadcopter
- Helicopter

3 Functional Requirements

- High-Level System Block Diagram
- Helicopter Subsystem Block Diagram

Preliminary Work

- Quadcopter
 - Mathematical Modeling
 - MATLAB Simulations
 - V-REP Simulations

Helicopter

- Mathematical Modeling
- MATLAB Simulations

5 Parts List

Outline II



- Division of Labor
- Schedule for Completion





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Introduction

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) offer a small-form solution to many aerial tasks and provide many benefits such as cost effectiveness and the lack of a pilot.
- One of the most challenging tasks in control applications is to model a system, such as the quadcopter, half-quadcopter, and helicopter considered in this project, using a set of ordinary nonlinear differential equations.
- There are many applications of quadcopters, half-quadcopters, and helicopters.

Introduction Applications/Examples

- Quadcopter
 - Standard quadcopter
 - Industrial drone
 - Personal drone
- Half-Quadcopter
 - Chinook helicopter
 - Concrete power screeder
- Helicopter
 - Standard helicopter
 - Hobby helicopter

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Introduction Objectives

- Understand the Quanser AERO and methods of controlling it which will allow for development of teaching materials for future classes.
- Implement the proposed approximate dynamic programming algorithm in [7] to both the half-quadcopter and helicopter configuration of the Quanser AERO (seen on next slide).
- Implement other controllers to the Quanser AERO to measure the effectiveness of the proposed approximate dynamic programming control algorithm.

Introduction Quanser AERO



Figure: Quanser AERO configured as a 2-DOF helicopter.

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- Approximate dynamic programming is the strategic method of dividing a complex problem into simpler problems and then solving those simpler problems with use of applicable algorithms.
- General steps proposed in [7]
 - Divide the total time of control into periods of T seconds.
 - Collect error data every τ seconds in each period T.
 - Use an actor-critic neural network as the data is collected to find the optimal inputs to minimize the error.
 - Use the updated optimal inputs for the next period T.



Figure: Timing in the approximate dynamic programming algorithm.

Various control techniques have been proposed for the quadcopter including the following:

- PD Controller [6]
- PID Controller [3]
- PI Control [6]

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Various control techniques have been proposed for the 2-DOF helicopter like the following:

- Sliding mode control [1]
- Fuzzy model-based control [10, 5]
- Data-driven adaptive optimal control [2]
- Neural control [4]
- Reinforcement learning optimal control [8]
- Augmented baseline LQR [9]

These control techniques use complicated, advanced mathematics. We also found that few techniques use approximate dynamic programming for real-time implementation.

Functional Requirements High-Level System Block Diagram



Figure: High-level system block diagram.

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Functional Requirements Helicopter Subsystem Block Diagram



Figure: Helicopter subsystem block diagram

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Preliminary Work Quadcopter

- Researching derivations of the quadcopter state-space model
- Developing a method in MATLAB to plot the quadcopter (use a standard PI controller to verify the results)
- Simulating a quadcopter in V-REP for a visual representation
- Goal is to extend these projects to the approximate dynamic programming control algorithm

The quadcopter free-body diagram is shown below.



Figure: Free-body diagram in body frame - top view.

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Quadcopter Mathematical Modeling



Figure: Global frame, body frame, and position vector.

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The variables used in the quadcopter state-space model are as follows:

- I_q is the length of a quadcopter arm.
- *m* is the mass of the quadcopter.
- g is the gravitational constant.
- *b* is the drag coefficient for the propellers.
- $\tau_{m_i} = b\omega_i^2$ is the yaw processional torque from a single propeller.
- *F_d* is the drag force coefficient.
- c_t is the thrust coefficient.
- ω_i is the propeller (1-4) angular speed.
- $T_i = c_t \omega_i^2$ is the single motor (1-4) thrust.
- $T_B = \sum_{i=1}^{4} c_t \omega_i^2$ is the body frame thrust.

- x is the quadcopter's center of mass X coordinate in the global frame.
- \dot{x} is the quadcopter's center of mass X velocity in the global frame.
- \ddot{x} is the quadcopter's center of mass X acceleration in the global frame.
- y is the quadcopter's center of mass Y coordinate in the global frame.
- \dot{y} is the quadcopter's center of mass Y velocity in the global frame.
- \ddot{y} is the quadcopter's center of mass Y acceleration in the global frame.
- z is the quadcopter's center of mass Z coordinate in the global frame.
- \dot{z} is the quadcopter's center of mass Z velocity in the global frame.
- \ddot{z} is the quadcopter's center of mass Z accleration in the global frame.

- ϕ is the roll (about X).
- $\dot{\phi}$ is the angular velocity about the body frame X.
- $\ddot{\phi}$ is the angular acceleration about the body frame X.
- θ is the pitch (about Y).
- $\dot{\theta}$ is the angular velocity about the body frame Y.
- $\ddot{\theta}$ is the angular acceleration about the body frame Y.
- ψ is the roll (about Z).
- $\dot{\psi}$ is angular velocity about the body frame Z.
- $\ddot{\psi}$ is angular acceleration about the body frame Z.

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- I_{xx} is the moment of inertia of quadcopter about body x axis.
- I_{yy} is the moment of inertia of quadcopter about body y axis.
- Note that $I_{xx} = I_{yy}$ by symmetry.
- I_{zz} is the moment of inertia of quadcopter about body z axis.
- R is the matrix that transforms the body frame to the global frame

First, we introduce the following shorthand:

$$c(\cdot) = \cos(\cdot)$$
 (1a)
 $s(\cdot) = \sin(\cdot)$ (1b)

Image: A matrix

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$$R = \begin{bmatrix} c(\psi)c(\theta) & c(\psi)s(\theta)s(\phi) - s(\psi)c(\phi) & c(\psi)s(\theta)c(\phi) + s(\psi)s(\phi) \\ s(\psi)c(\theta) & s(\psi)s(\theta)s(\phi) + c(\psi)c(\phi) & s(\psi)s(\theta)c(\phi) - c(\psi)s(\phi) \\ -s(\theta) & c(\theta)s(\psi) & c(\theta)c(\phi) \end{bmatrix}$$
(2)

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$$x_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \end{bmatrix}^{T}$$
(3a)

$$x_{2} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} & \dot{y} & \dot{z} \end{bmatrix}^{T}$$
(3b)

$$x_{3} = \begin{bmatrix} \phi & \theta & \psi \end{bmatrix}^{T}$$
(3c)

$$x_{4} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\phi} & \dot{\theta} & \dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix}^{T}$$
(3d)

$$q = \begin{bmatrix} x_{1} & x_{2} & x_{3} & x_{4} \end{bmatrix}^{T}$$
(3e)

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Quadcopter Mathematical Modeling - State Space Realization

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x_1} &= x_2 & (4a) \\ \dot{x_2} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -g \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{m} R T_B + \frac{1}{m} F_d & (4b) \\ \dot{x_3} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\sin\theta \\ 0 & \cos\phi & \cos\theta\sin\phi \\ 0 & -\sin\phi & \cos\theta\sin\phi \end{bmatrix}^{-1} x_4 & (4c) \\ \dot{x_4} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{I_{XX}} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{I_{YY}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{I_{ZZ}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_q c_t (-\omega_2^2 + \omega_4^2) + \dot{\theta} \dot{\psi} (I_{yy} - I_{zz}) \\ I_q c_t (-\omega_1^2 + \omega_3^2) + \dot{\phi} \dot{\psi} (I_{zz} - I_{xx}) \\ \sum_{i=1}^4 \tau_{m_i} \end{bmatrix} \end{pmatrix} \quad (4d) \end{aligned}$$

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Assumptions - very small $\dot{\phi}, \dot{\theta}, \dot{\psi}$ and deviations in ϕ, θ



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Where:

$$T_{x} = (\sin \phi \sin \psi + \cos \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi)$$
(6a)

$$T_{y} = (-\sin \phi \cos \psi + \sin \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi)$$
(6b)

$$T_{z} = (\cos \psi \cos \phi)$$
(6c)

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We were able to implement the non-linear model for the quadcopter in MATLAB.

- Step 1 Use thrusts to generate lateral acceleration.
- Step 2 Use thrusts to generate angular accelerations.
- Step 3 Keep a running total of velocity by adding instantaneous accelerations multiplied by sampling time to perform running total integration.
- Step 4 Keep a running total of position by adding instantaneous velocity multiplied by sampling time to perform running total integration.
- Step 5 Rotate struct of points locating motor mounts, and shift into position by adding position vector, as shown in Equation 9 and presented graphically next.

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Quadcopter Mathematical Modeling - MATLAB Plotting



Figure: Vectors locating motor mounts at time *t*.

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$$P = [x_i y_i z_i]^T (7a)$$

$$r_{CoM_{init}} = [0 0 0]^T (7b)$$

$$P_{1_{init}} = [\frac{l_a}{2} 0 0]^T (7c)$$

$$P_{2_{init}} = [0 \frac{l_a}{2} 0]^T (7d)$$

$$P_{3_{init}} = [-\frac{l_a}{2} 0 0]^T (7e)$$

$$P_{4_{init}} = [0 -\frac{l_a}{2} 0]^T (7f)$$

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The location of the motor mounts in the body frame can then be rotated as follows

$$\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{i}_{\mathsf{t}-\mathsf{body}}} = \mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{t}} \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{i}_{\mathsf{init}}} \tag{8}$$

And then shifted into the global frame by position vector for the quadcopter's center of mass:

$$\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{i}_{\mathsf{t}-\mathsf{global}}} = \mathsf{r}_{\mathsf{CoM}_{\mathsf{t}}} + \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{i}_{\mathsf{t}-\mathsf{body}}} \tag{9}$$

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For i = 1, 2, 3, 4, where r_{CoM_t} is the location of the center of the quadcopter at time instant *t*.

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Figure: Quadcopter moving forward.

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Quadcopter MATLAB Simulations



Figure: Quadcopter moving backwards.

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Figure: Quadcopter moving left.

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Figure: Quadcopter moving right.

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The proposed error model is

$$\dot{\mathbf{e}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{e} - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^d \tag{10}$$

The error vector will be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{e} = \begin{bmatrix} e_1\\ e_2\\ e_3\\ e_4\\ e_5\\ e_6\\ e_7\\ e_8\\ e_9\\ e_{10}\\ e_{11}\\ e_{12} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x^d - x\\ y^d - y\\ z^d - z\\ \phi^d - \phi\\ \phi^d - \phi \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{x}^d - \mathbf{x}$$
(11)

Image: Image:

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Quadcopter MATLAB Simulations - ADP

Because we want the quadcopter to hover on a point, we assume that ϕ^d, θ^d and ψ^d are 0 as well as ϕ^d, θ^d , and ψ^d . Further, we can assume x^d , y^d , and z^d to be zero as well. Thus the error vector is:

$$\mathbf{e} = \begin{bmatrix} e_{1} \\ e_{2} \\ e_{3} \\ e_{4} \\ e_{5} \\ e_{6} \\ e_{7} \\ e_{8} \\ e_{9} \\ e_{10} \\ e_{11} \\ e_{12} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x^{d} - x \\ y^{d} - y \\ z^{d} - z \\ -\dot{x} \\ -\dot{y} \\ -\dot{z} \\ -\phi \\ -\theta \\ \psi^{d} - \psi \\ -\dot{\phi} \\ -\dot{\theta} \\ -\dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{x}^{d} - \mathbf{x}$$
(12)

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Quadcopter V-REP Simulations



Figure: Quadcopter hovering in V-REP.

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Quadcopter V-REP Simulations



Figure: Quadcopter approaching a point in V-REP.

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Preliminary Work

- Researching the derivation of the 2-DOF state-space model
- Researching the proposed approximate dynamic programming algorithm in [7]
- Simulating the proposed approximate dynamic programming algorithm in [7] for the 2-DOF helicopter
- Configuring the Quanser software to operate the Quanser AERO

Helicopter Mathematical Modeling

Complete state-space model of the 2-DOF helicopter was derived.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\psi} \\ \ddot{\theta} \\ \ddot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{R_{p}\beta_{p}}{l_{p}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{R_{y}\beta_{y}}{l_{y}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \theta \\ \psi \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ \frac{K_{p,main}}{l_{p}} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{K_{y,tail}}{l_{y}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_{p} \\ V_{y} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{G_{p}}{l_{p}} - \frac{R_{c}m_{body}gsin(\theta)}{l_{p}} \\ -\frac{G_{y}}{l_{y}} \end{bmatrix}$$
(13)

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- θ is the pitch.
- ψ is the yaw.
- V_p is the voltage applied to the main rotor.
- V_{γ} is the voltage applied to the tail rotor.

The variables used here are as follows for the Quanser AERO:

- R_p is the distance from the pitch rotor to the fork.
- R_y is the distance from the tail rotor to the fork.
- R_c is the distance from the fork to the center of mass of the body.
- β_p is the damping coefficient associated with the main rotor.
- β_y is the damping coefficient associated with the tail rotor.
- I_p is the rotational inertia of the main rotor.
- I_y is the rotational inertia of the tail rotor.
- $K_{p,main}$ is the thrust constant associated with the main rotor.
- $K_{y,tail}$ is the thrust constant associated with the tail rotor.
- G_p is the nonlinear coupling on the main rotor due to the tail rotor.
- G_y is the nonlinear coupling on the tail rotor due to the main rotor.
- m_{body} is the mass of the body.
- g is the acceleration due gravity.

We then linearized the 2-DOF helicopter state-space model.

Assumptions

• $sin(\theta) \approx \theta$

•
$$G_p = K_{p,tail} V_y$$

• $G_y = K_{y,main}V_p$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\psi} \\ \ddot{\theta} \\ \ddot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\frac{R_c m_{body} \varepsilon}{l_p} & 0 & -\frac{R_p \beta_p}{l_p} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{R_y \beta_y}{l_y} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \theta \\ \dot{\psi} \\ \dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ \frac{K_{p,main}}{l_p} & \frac{K_{p,tail}}{l_y} \\ -\frac{K_{y,tail}}{l_y} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_p \\ V_y \end{bmatrix}$$
(14)

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Using measurements provided by Quanser, the state-space model for the Quanser AERO becomes Equation 15.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\psi} \\ \ddot{\theta} \\ \ddot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1.7442 & 0 & -0.3307 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -0.9283 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \theta \\ \psi \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0.0512 & 0.0977 \\ -0.1139 & 0.0928 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_{\rho} \\ V_{\gamma} \end{bmatrix}$$
(15)

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Our derived state-space model matches the state-space model provided by Quanser within rounding.

- Using the state-space model of the 2-DOF helicopter, we are currently trying to simulate the proposed algorithm in [7].
- The proposed algorithm in [7] uses an actor-critic neural network to find the optimal inputs to minimize the error model.
- The proposed error model is

$$\dot{\mathbf{e}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{e} - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^d \tag{16}$$

where the error vector is

$$\mathbf{e} = \begin{bmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \\ e_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \theta^d - \theta \\ \psi^d - \psi \\ -\dot{\theta} \\ -\dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{x}^d - \mathbf{x}$$
(17)
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- We are currently researching the regulator control problem.
- The initial states are arbitrary, and the desired states are all zero.
- Linear quadratic regulator (LQR) control is often used with the 2-DOF helicopter, so we are using this as a baseline controller.

Helicopter MATLAB Simulations



Figure: Angular position using the approximate dynamic programming algorithm and LQR.

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Helicopter MATLAB Simulations



Figure: Angular velocity using the approximate dynamic programming algorithm and LQR.

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Helicopter MATLAB Simulations



Figure: Motor voltage inputs using the approximate dynamic programming algorithm and LQR.

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- In theory, the approximate dynamic programming algorithm should provide a better response than LQR control.
- Further research is needed to determine tuning parameters to make the approximate dynamic programming algorithm better than LQR.

Parts List

- Quanser AERO (Dr. Miah currently has one.)
- Software
 - MATLAB (Purchased for other classes)
 - V-REP (Free)
 - QUARC (Free)
- Raspberry Pi/BeagleBone (Dr. Miah currently has some.)

Anthony

- Quadcopter Mathematical Modeling
- Quadcopter MATLAB Simulations
- Quadcopter V-REP Simulations
- Half-Quadcopter MATLAB Simulations
- Half-Quadcopter V-REP Simulations
- Simulink Integration of Quanser Half-Quadcopter

Andrew

- Helicopter Mathematical Modeling
- Helicopter MATLAB Simulations
- Quanser Software Setup
- Simulink Integration of Baseline Controllers
- Simulink Integration of Helicopter
- Single-Board Microcomputer Integration

Schedule for Completion Fall 2017



Figure: Fall 2017.

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Schedule for Completion Spring 2018



Figure: Spring 2018.

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Image: A matrix

Future Directions

- Research the approximate dynamic programming algorithm in order to make it better than LQR control
- Finish both the V-REP and MATLAB simulations
- Implement the tuned algorithm into Simulink to control the Quanser AERO (next semester)
- Implement the single-board microcomputer as a cost-effective solution (next semester)

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