

Representation of Vehicle Dynamics in Haptic Teleoperation of Aerial Robots

Xiaolei Hou, Robert Mahony, Felix Schill

Abstract—This paper considers the question providing effective feedback of vehicle dynamic forces to a pilot in haptic teleoperation of aerial robots. We claim that the usual state-of-the-art haptic interface, based on research motivated by robotic manipulator slaves and virtual haptic environments, does a poor job of reflecting dynamic forces of a mobile robotic vehicle to the user. This leads us to propose a novel new force feedback user interface for mobile robotic vehicles with dynamics. An analysis of the closed-loop force-displacement transfer functions experienced by the master joystick for the classical and the new approach clearly indicate the advantages of proposed formulation. Both the classical and the proposed approach have been implemented in the teleoperation of a quadrotor vehicle and we present quantitative and cognitive performance data from a user study that corroborates the expected performance advantages.

I. INTRODUCTION

Force feedback or haptic teleoperation of remote robotic devices is a classical topic in robotics. The benefit of haptic feedback in teleoperation applications that require precision and skill of the user is well established [18], [4], [14], [9]. The utility of forcefeedback in teleoperation of mobile vehicles is less well studied. Obstacle avoidance and trajectory guidance control algorithms have been studied for terrestrial wheeled vehicles [5], [6] with force feedback generated by artificial force fields, typically virtual potentials or spring-damper models associated with environmental interaction, that provides the user with a haptic sense of the local environment. In 2002 Lee *et al* [13] provided a user study that indicated that haptic feedback made a significant difference in the performance of a user in navigating through a complex obstacle strewn environment. The problem of force feedback teleoperation of a helicopter has been studied in the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering at Delft University of Technology over the last six years [2], [10], [12], [11]. This work has showed that a simple virtual potential or spring damper system does not provide good haptic cues to the pilot for obstacle avoidance. Instead they use ideas based on the *generalized potential field* [8] that compares estimates of time-to-contact and maximum stopping time to produce a force that becomes noticeable only when the vehicle is performing a manoeuvre that may lead it to come close to collision. Recent work by Brandt [3] also finds a similar time-to-contact cue to be the key to providing good haptic feedback to the pilot. Work by the Mahony [15],

[20] has used optic flow as a direct cue for teleoperation of terrestrial wheeled vehicles and for aerial vehicles. The spherical divergence of an optical flow field for a moving vehicle is closely related to time-to-contact and the behavior of the system is qualitatively the same as that obtained in [2], [10], [3], [12], [11] with the added advantage that it is derived from a vision system, one of the lightest, most robust, exteroceptive sensor systems available for a aerial robot. Although there are a range of works concerning haptic rendering of exogenous forces to aid obstacle avoidance and task performance for aerial robotic vehicles the authors are aware of no work based on rendering the inertial forces of the vehicle.

In this paper, we propose a novel haptic control scheme that offers better representation of the dynamic force of mobile robotic vehicles in haptic teleoperation with a particular focus on aerial vehicles. The proposed approach is achieved by configuring the haptic joystick to servo control its position reference based on the velocity feedback from slave robot and measure force applied by user as the control reference input to the robot. This approach should be compared to the classical approach in which the position of the master joystick is used as input to the robot and the force applied to the joystick is derived from data received from the slave vehicle. The velocity of the vehicle is estimated by velocity observer using absolute position and attitude measurement from VICON visual tracking system to regulate the position set point of the joystick, providing the pilot with a feel for the motion of the vehicle, and to provides velocity controller with velocity feedback. The force applied to the joystick is measured and used as the velocity set point for the velocity controller of the aerial robot. In this way the pilot ‘feels’ the force applied to and the motion of the vehicle in a natural manner. Initial analysis indicates that the resulting controllability of the vehicle is significantly enhanced, and pilots have a much better perception of vehicle’s motion and dynamics. A full factorial user study was carried out on a robotic experimental platform to verify that the proposed haptic interface performs significantly better than the state-of-art approach in both quantitative and cognitive measures.

The remainder part of this paper is organized as follows. Section II describes the problem formulation along with a comparison of the state-of-art approach for haptic teleoperation of mobile robots to the new proposed interface with an analysis of user perception of motion for each case. The approach we proposed to represent the vehicle’s dynamics and comparisons upon user perception of two approaches are given in III. The results from the full factorial user

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The text below the diagram is very small and difficult to read, but it appears to be a technical description or a set of instructions related to the diagram.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of various factors on the performance of a system. The study is organized as follows:

- 2. Methodology
- 3. Results
- 4. Discussion
- 5. Conclusion

2. Methodology

The methodology used in this study is a combination of experimental and analytical methods. The experimental part involves the use of a test rig to measure the performance of the system under various conditions. The analytical part involves the use of mathematical models to predict the performance of the system.

3. Results

The results of the study show that the performance of the system is significantly affected by the factors investigated. The most significant factor is the temperature of the system, which has a strong negative correlation with performance. Other factors such as the input power and the load also have a significant effect on performance.

4. Discussion

The results of the study are discussed in the context of the existing literature. It is found that the findings of this study are consistent with previous research, which has shown that temperature has a strong negative effect on the performance of a system. The findings also suggest that the input power and the load have a significant effect on performance, which is also consistent with previous research.

5. Conclusion

The study concludes that the performance of the system is significantly affected by the factors investigated. The most significant factor is the temperature of the system, which has a strong negative correlation with performance. Other factors such as the input power and the load also have a significant effect on performance.





Fig. 1. Laboratory setup for the experiment.

The experiment was conducted in a laboratory setting. The setup included a computer system for data acquisition and analysis, and various laboratory instruments for signal processing. The results of the experiment are presented in the following sections.

TABLE 1		TABLE 2	
Year	Value	Year	Value
1990	100	1990	100
1991	105	1991	105
1992	110	1992	110
1993	115	1993	115
1994	120	1994	120
1995	125	1995	125
1996	130	1996	130
1997	135	1997	135
1998	140	1998	140
1999	145	1999	145
2000	150	2000	150
2001	155	2001	155
2002	160	2002	160
2003	165	2003	165
2004	170	2004	170
2005	175	2005	175
2006	180	2006	180
2007	185	2007	185
2008	190	2008	190
2009	195	2009	195
2010	200	2010	200
2011	205	2011	205
2012	210	2012	210
2013	215	2013	215
2014	220	2014	220
2015	225	2015	225
2016	230	2016	230
2017	235	2017	235
2018	240	2018	240
2019	245	2019	245
2020	250	2020	250

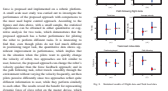


TABLE 1 and TABLE 2 show the values for the years 1990 through 2020. The values increase linearly by 5 units per year. The diagram shows a mapping from the top row (A-E) to the bottom row (F-J).

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