

Integrated guidance and control framework for the waypoint navigation of a miniature aircraft with highly coupled longitudinal and lateral dynamics

Proc IMechE Part G:
J Aerospace Engineering
0(0) 1–13
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DOI: 10.1177/0954410020964992
journals.sagepub.com/home/pig
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Abstract

A solution to the waypoint navigation problem for the fixed wing micro air vehicles (MAV) having a severe coupling between longitudinal and lateral dynamics, in the framework of integrated guidance and control (IGC) is addressed in this paper. IGC yields a single step solution to the waypoint navigation problem, unlike conventional multiple loop design. The pure proportional navigation (PPN) guidance law is integrated with the coupled MAV dynamics. A multivariable static output feedback (SOF) controller is designed for the linear state space model formulated in IGC framework. A waypoint navigation algorithm is proposed that handles the minimum turn radius constraint of the MAV and also evaluates the feasibility of reaching a waypoint. Non-linear simulations with and without wind disturbances are performed on a high fidelity 150 mm wingspan MAV model to demonstrate the proposed waypoint navigation algorithm.

Keywords

Integrated guidance and control, coupled dynamics, micro air vehicle, static output feedback, waypoint navigation

Date received: 14 November 2019; accepted: 9 September 2020

Introduction

Fixed wing micro air vehicles (MAV) are extremely agile, lightweight aircraft with a maximum wingspan of 150 mm.¹ In any of the MAV applications, it has to reach a set of waypoints, specified by the end user. In most of the waypoint navigation problems, guidance and control are treated as two separate problems. Control system is usually designed to give higher bandwidth to track the commands generated by the guidance law. But when the guidance law is integrated with the inner loop control system, the combined system often fails to meet the required performance and stability specifications. The major reasons are due to the assumption of lower order dynamics for the inner loop control system, neglecting actuator bandwidth and assuming decoupled longitudinal and lateral dynamics, especially for the case of MAVs. Many of the guidance law in the literature assumes lower order autopilot for inner loop control system.² The assumption of lower order inner loop autopilot provides fictitious high amplitude gain margin for guidance law to operate. When the combined system is not stable, the guidance law parameters are retuned to ensure stability. The re-tuning of guidance law

parameters often lead to inadequate performance. The actuator bandwidth is of major concern for MAVs. The short period mode and Dutch roll mode natural frequencies of MAVs are comparable to actuator bandwidth.³ The relatively lower actuator bandwidth in MAVs leads to poor wind disturbance rejection. The wind disturbances change angle of attack (α) and side slip angle (β) considerably from the trim operating conditions. The additional forces and moments generated by wind disturbances are often neglected while designing the guidance law in the presence of wind.⁴ The coupling between longitudinal and lateral dynamics is severe for MAVs and cannot be neglected as in the case of bigger UAVs.^{3,5} The guidance law design needs to consider the

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combined longitudinal and lateral dynamics, failure of which leads to instability during abrupt maneuvers.

The topic of integrated guidance and control (IGC) has gained considerable interest in the area of missile guidance and control^{6–11} due to the following advantages. The synergy between the guidance and control subsystems can be exploited to make the combined system more stable and effective than the individual subsystems.⁶ Despite the fact that separate guidance and control have been applied successfully, still there remains scope for further optimizing the performance and enhancing the stability.⁷ The prime focus on the missile IGC design is to achieve improved terminal miss distances. When the missile approaches the target, the time scale separation between the control loop and guidance loop is no longer valid.⁸ The conventional approach of designing separate guidance and control leads to a conservative design with the requirement of actuators with higher bandwidth than necessary.⁹

The idea of IGC is also applied to fixed wing UAVs.^{12–13} A linear time invariant model in the framework of integrated guidance and control is developed for a fixed wing UAV of wingspan 3.8 m to track helical trim trajectories in literature.¹² For a UAV flying along the trim trajectory, the net forces and moments acting on the UAV are zero. The method developed in literature¹² explains how to follow a given helical trajectory in which UAV remains in a trimmed state. But finding such a trimmed trajectory connecting two waypoints is very computationally intensive. Moreover, the method cannot be applied for in-flight waypoint changes since it is difficult to compute the trim trajectories online with the limited onboard computational power available with MAV. The IGC design for a fixed wing UAV of 8.8 m wingspan for following a predefined path using sliding mode control is explained in literature.¹⁴ The design assumes that the roll, pitch and yaw dynamics are decoupled. But for MAVs, the roll, pitch and yaw dynamics are tightly coupled.⁵ Nonlinear dynamic inversion (NDI) based IGC framework is developed for UAVs in literature^{15–17} NDI utilizes a full state feedback structure. A combination of NDI and back-stepping method is used in literature¹⁸ for the IGC of a hypersonic vehicle. In the case of MAVs, measurement of α and β is tedious due to the lack of availability of lightweight sensors. Moreover, the perturbations in α and β are very high for the MAVs when compared to bigger UAVs under nominal wind conditions. IGC framework developed for lateral dynamics of a fixed wing UAV assumes decoupled longitudinal dynamics in literature.¹³ But the assumptions of decoupled longitudinal and lateral dynamics is not valid for 150 mm class of MAVs.^{3,5}

To overcome the above-mentioned limitations of existing IGC methodology, a novel IGC framework combining the idea of pure proportional navigation

(PPN) with MAV dynamics is derived in this paper. The proposed waypoint navigation algorithm based on IGC framework is non-iterative and hence computationally inexpensive. The issue of coupling between longitudinal and lateral dynamics of the MAV is handled by the proposed IGC framework. Unlike the existing algorithms based on IGC framework, the proposed waypoint navigation algorithm evaluates the feasibility of reaching a waypoint based on the acceleration constraints of the MAV. The proposed IGC framework utilizes only measured outputs and does not require full state information as in literature.^{15–18} A H_∞ SOF controller is designed for the combined guidance and control loop using Linear Matrix Inequality (LMI) techniques. Numerical simulation results are presented for the straight line following and rectangular path following using a high fidelity nonlinear model of a 0.15 m wingspan MAV obtained from wind tunnel data. The simulations also show the wind disturbance attenuation capabilities of the IGC framework.

The paper is organized as follows. The coupled linear state space model of the MAV is presented in section **Preliminaries**. The guidance law used in IGC framework is given in section **Guidance logic for waypoint navigation in two dimensional space**. The integration of guidance law to the coupled dynamics of MAV and the waypoint navigation algorithm is presented in section **Integrated guidance and control for waypoint navigation in two dimensional space**. The non-linear six degrees of freedom simulations for straight line following and rectangular path following is given in section **Numerical simulation results for waypoint navigation**, followed by **Conclusions**.

Preliminaries

Coupled linear state space model of the MAV

The specifications of the MAV considered in this paper is given in Table 1.^{1,5} The MAV has a rectangular planform with a wingspan of 0.15 m and a chord length of 0.11 m. Due to limitations in takeoff weight and space availability, only elevator and rudder control surfaces are employed without aileron. This makes the MAV further under-actuated when compared to conventional unmanned air vehicles (UAVs).

The coupling between longitudinal and lateral dynamics is severe for the case of MAVs. The coupled linear state space shows an unstable spiral mode, whereas the decoupled model fails to capture the unstable spiral mode.⁵ The effects of asymmetric propeller wake, motor-propeller counter torque and gyroscopic effects lead to unstable spiral mode dynamics.^{5,19} The coupled linear state space model of the MAV is given below.⁵

$$\dot{X} = A_c X + B_c U \quad (1)$$

Table I. Specifications of the MAV.

Planform	Rectangular
Take-off weight	53 grams
Cruise airspeed	8 m/s
Stall airspeed	6 m/s
Wing - chord length	0.11 m
Wing - span length	0.15 m
Airfoil	E387
Control surfaces	Elevator and rudder

where

$$X = [\tilde{u}, \tilde{w}, \tilde{q}, \tilde{\theta}, \tilde{h}, \tilde{v}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{r}, \tilde{\phi}]^T \quad (2)$$

and

$$U = [\tilde{\delta}_{es}, \tilde{\delta}_{rs}, \tilde{\delta}_t]^T \quad (3)$$

The set $(\tilde{u}, \tilde{v}, \tilde{w})$ represents the linearized velocity along body axis, $(\tilde{p}, \tilde{q}, \tilde{r})$ are the linearized angular rates, $\tilde{\phi}$ is the linearized roll angle, $\tilde{\theta}$ is the linearized pitch angle and \tilde{h} is the linearized altitude. The linearized elevator servo output $\tilde{\delta}_{es}$, linearized rudder servo output $\tilde{\delta}_{rs}$ and the linearized thrust generated by motor-propeller denoted by $\tilde{\delta}_t$ are the control inputs. A_c is the system matrix for coupled state space model and B_c is the input matrix. The matrices A_c and B_c are given in⁵ for the case of 150 mm wing-span fixed wing MAV.

The states of longitudinal dynamics is given by

$$X_1 = [\tilde{u}, \tilde{w}, \tilde{q}, \tilde{\theta}, \tilde{h}]^T \quad (4)$$

Similarly, the states of lateral dynamics is given by

$$X_2 = [\tilde{v}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{r}, \tilde{\phi}]^T \quad (5)$$

The matrix A_c in equation (1) can be written as

$$A_c = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{pmatrix} \quad (6)$$

where A_{11} denotes the state matrix for decoupled longitudinal dynamics and A_{22} the state matrix for decoupled lateral dynamics. The coupling between longitudinal and lateral dynamics is introduced by the matrices A_{12} and A_{21} . For bigger UAVs, the eigenvalues of A_c denoted by $\bar{\lambda}(A_c) = \bar{\lambda}(A_{11}) \cup \bar{\lambda}(A_{22})$. But for the case of 150 mm wingspan MAVs, $\bar{\lambda}(A_c) \neq \bar{\lambda}(A_{11}) \cup \bar{\lambda}(A_{22})$.⁵

Remark: In the rest of this paper, a variable with \sim symbol denotes the linearized variable. For example, the variables (u, v, w) denotes the velocity components along the body axis and $(\tilde{u}, \tilde{v}, \tilde{w})$ represents their linearized version.

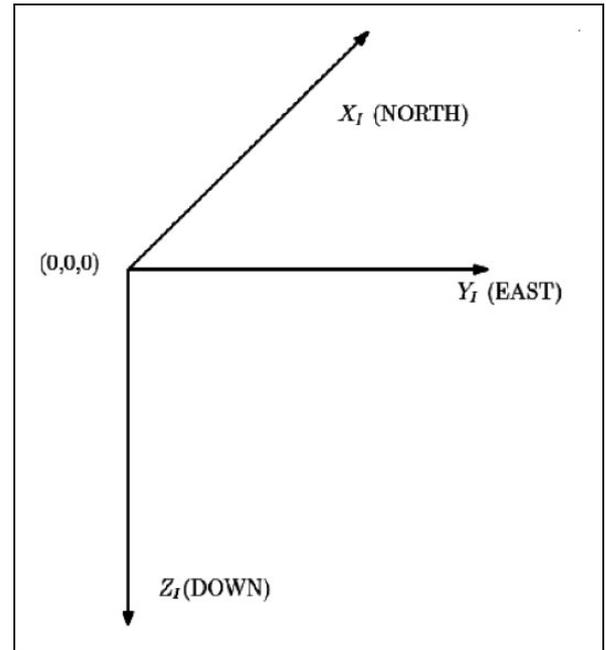


Figure 1. Diagram showing inertial $X_I Y_I Z_I$ co-ordinate system.

Assumptions: The angle of sideslip (β) is assumed to be negligible, the airspeed (V_a) and altitude (h) is assumed to be constant.

Guidance logic for waypoint navigation in two dimensional space

The origin of the local inertial coordinate system ($X_I Y_I Z_I$) is the home location of the MAV as shown in Figure 1 with positive X_I axis towards the geographic north pole, positive Y_I axis in the direction of 90° clockwise rotation from positive X_I axis and positive Z_I axis points towards the down direction. For the waypoint following in 2D space, altitude hold is employed using altimeter feedback, so motion in the local inertial $X_I Y_I$ plane is only considered. The guidance logic is explained first in this section and the integration of the guidance logic with the control system is explained later in section IV.

In Figure 2, axes $X' Y'$ are parallel to $X_I Y_I$, (x, y) is the current MAV position in the $X_I Y_I$ plane, (x_f, y_f) is the next waypoint to be followed, r_a is the range, σ is the angle between the line joining (x, y) , (x_f, y_f) and the Y' axis, χ is the angle made by the velocity vector with the X' axis. The magnitude of the velocity vector is denoted by V_a . The miss distance d is the perpendicular distance between (x_f, y_f) and the velocity vector. The applied acceleration is denoted by a_c and is perpendicular to the velocity vector and lies in the $X_I Y_I$ plane. This approach is suitable for fixed wing aircraft as the applied acceleration does not change the airspeed.^{20,21} The units of (x, y) , (x_f, y_f) , d , r_a are in meters (m), V_a is in meters/second (m/s), a_c is in meters/second-square (m/s^2) and σ , χ are in radians (rad). From Figure 2, we can

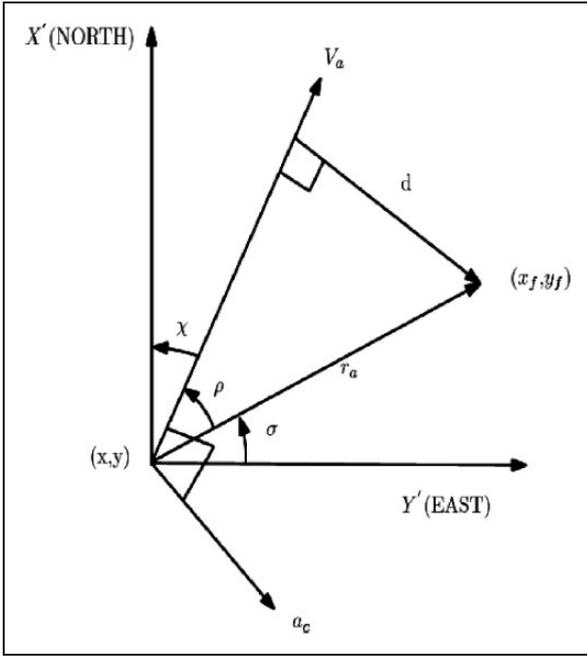


Figure 2. Diagram explaining the guidance law given in equation (11).

write the following relations given in equations (7) to (11).

The line-of-sight (LOS) angle σ is given by

$$\sigma = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{x_f - x}{y_f - y} \right) \quad (7)$$

The angle ρ is given by

$$\rho = \frac{\pi}{2} - (\chi + \sigma) \quad (8)$$

The range r_a and miss distance d are given in equations (9) and (10) respectively.

$$r_a = \sqrt{(x_f - x)^2 + (y_f - y)^2} \quad (9)$$

$$d = r_a \sin \rho \quad (10)$$

The applied acceleration a_c is given by

$$a_c = k_1 d \quad (11)$$

In equation (11), k_1 is the proportional gain. The magnitude of applied acceleration depends upon k_1 . An expression for the gain k_1 is given in the next subsection. The acceleration is applied perpendicular to the velocity vector in such a way that it does not change the magnitude of velocity but only the direction. This is analogous to Pure Proportional Navigation (PPN) where the acceleration applied is perpendicular to the velocity vector.²² Here it is

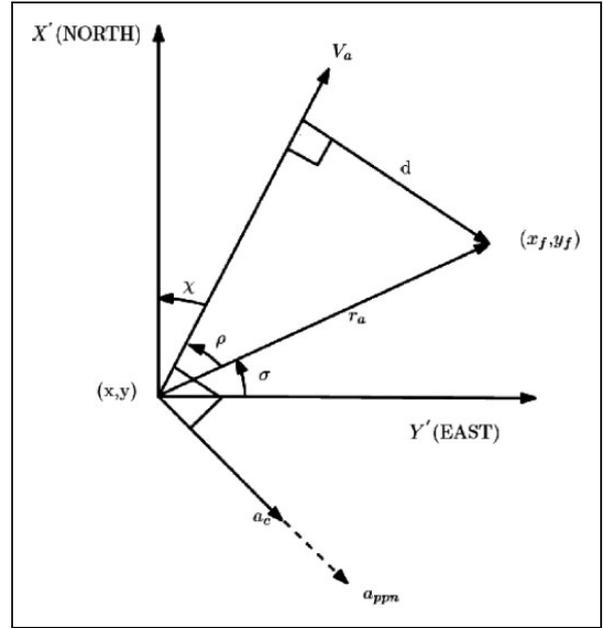


Figure 3. Diagram used for explaining the relation between the proposed guidance law and PPN guidance law.

assumed that altitude and V_a is constant. When the miss distance is zero, from equation (10), we obtain either $r_a = 0$ or $\rho = 0$. The condition $r_a = 0$ implies that $x = x_f$ and $y = y_f$. From Figure 2, $\rho = 0$ implies that the velocity vector is pointing towards the goal point. So when the miss distance is zero, the MAV has either reached the desired waypoint or the velocity vector of the MAV is along the line connecting the waypoint and current MAV position such that no further acceleration has to be applied to change the direction of the MAV.

Relation to PPN guidance law and choice of gain k_1

This subsection gives the relation between the proposed guidance law given in equation (11) and the Pure Proportional Navigation (PPN) guidance law. Consider Figure 3, in which a_{ppn} denotes the acceleration applied in PPN guidance law and rest all variables are same as in Figure 2. The expression for PPN guidance law²² is given by

$$a_{ppn} = -NV_a \dot{\sigma} \quad (12)$$

where $\dot{\sigma}$ is the line of sight rate and N is the navigation constant.

$$\dot{\sigma} = -\frac{V_a \sin \rho}{r_a} \quad (13)$$

Using equations (12) to (13)

$$a_{ppn} = NV_a \left(\frac{V_a \sin \rho}{r_a} \right) \quad (14)$$

From equations (10) and (11)

$$a_c = k_1 r_a \sin \rho \quad (15)$$

Substituting equations (15) into (14) gives

$$a_{ppn} = \left(\frac{N}{k_1}\right) \left(\frac{V_a}{r_a}\right)^2 a_c \quad (16)$$

If we choose k_1 as given in equation (17), the proposed guidance law is same as the PPN guidance law.²³

$$k_1 = \frac{N(V_a)^2}{r_a^2} \quad (17)$$

Thus the guidance law given in equation (11) takes the form

$$a_c = \left(\frac{N(V_a)^2}{r_a^2}\right) d \quad (18)$$

and is same as the PPN guidance law. The guidance law given in equation (18) will ensure that the MAV will reach the waypoint for $N \geq 2$.²²

Constraint on minimum turn radius

Fixed wing MAVs have a constraint on the minimum allowable turn radius. The minimum value of the turn radius denoted by R_{\min} depends upon the airspeed, stall angle of attack and the maximum thrust available. Since the applied acceleration is perpendicular to the velocity vector, the MAV follows a circular path with an instantaneous radius of curvature inversely proportional to the magnitude of the applied acceleration. The constraint on the applied acceleration a_c can be given as in²⁴

$$a_c < \frac{V_a^2}{R_{\min}} \quad (19)$$

Using equations (18) and (10), (19) can be written as

$$\left(\frac{N(V_a)^2}{r_a^2}\right) (r_a \sin \rho) < \frac{V_a^2}{R_{\min}} \quad (20)$$

After simplifying, equation (20) becomes

$$\frac{N \sin \rho}{r_a} < \frac{1}{R_{\min}} \quad (21)$$

The minimum value for $N=2$. Hence equation (21) becomes

$$r_a > 2R_{\min} \sin \rho \quad (22)$$

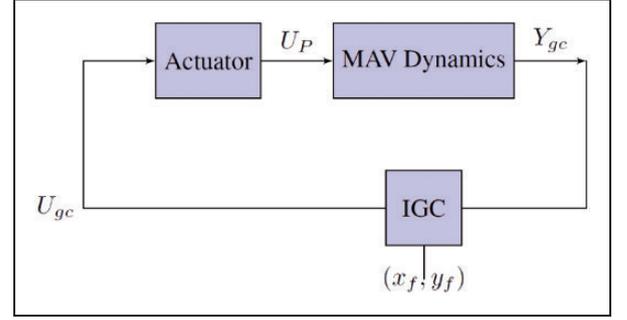


Figure 4. Architecture of integrated guidance and control for the MAV.

At any instant, the relation given by equation (22) ensures that the minimum turn radius constraint is not violated. A waypoint is considered to be not feasible if the condition given in equation (22) is violated.

Integrated guidance and control for waypoint navigation in two dimensional space

In separate guidance and control, the input to the actuator is computed in two sequential stages from the navigation data. Whereas in integrated guidance and control, the input to the actuator is computed in a single step from the navigation data. The block diagram of integrated guidance and control (IGC) is given in Figure 4. The integrated guidance and control block generates the actuator input (U_{gc}) based on the output (Y_{gc}) and the next waypoint position (x_n, y_n). U_P is the actuator output that deflects the elevator, rudder control surfaces and also changes the thrust input.

The measured output Y_I is given by

$$Y_{gc} = [q, \theta, h, p, r, \phi, d]^T \quad (23)$$

The yaw angle ψ , the current position of the MAV (x, y) and the next waypoint position (x_f, y_f) is used for the computation of the miss distance d as given in equations (7) to (10). Here the heading angle $\chi \approx \psi$ assuming the angle of side slip (β) to be small.

Let $x_1 = d$, and $\dot{x}_1 = \dot{d} = x_2$. The state variables used in the linear state space model of integrated guidance and control logic are

$$X_{gc} = [X, X_g, X_a]^T \quad (24)$$

where X is given in equation (2)

$X_g = [\tilde{x}_1, \tilde{x}_2]$ are the states corresponding to the guidance logic and $X_a = [\tilde{\delta}_{ep}, \tilde{\delta}_{ep1}, \tilde{\delta}_{er}, \tilde{\delta}_{er1}]$ corresponds to second order elevator and rudder servo actuator transfer function. Thus

$$X_{gc} = [\tilde{u}, \tilde{w}, \tilde{q}, \tilde{\theta}, \tilde{h}, \tilde{v}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{r}, \tilde{\phi}, \tilde{x}_1, \tilde{x}_2, \tilde{\delta}_{ep}, \tilde{\delta}_{ep1}, \tilde{\delta}_{er}, \tilde{\delta}_{er1}]^T \quad (25)$$

In equation (25), \tilde{x}_1, \tilde{x}_2 are the variables obtained through the linearization of x_1 and x_2 . The first step in the linearization process is to find a relation between $x_2(\dot{d})$ and the acceleration command a_c . The second step is to find relation between a_c and the turn rate of the vehicle which is a function of $\dot{\psi}$ and $\dot{\beta}$. These two steps will lead to the integration of $X_g = [\tilde{x}_1, \tilde{x}_2]$ to the state vector X to form X_{gc} , since $\dot{\psi}$ and $\dot{\beta}$ is a function of X . As a first step, the commanded acceleration is simplified and is valid for small angles of ρ as given in the below theorem.

Theorem 1: For small angle ρ , the commanded acceleration can be written as

$$a_c = \frac{1}{N-1} \ddot{d} \quad (26)$$

Proof: The approximations $\sin\rho = \rho$ and $\cos\rho = 1$ are done for small angle ρ . From equation (10)

$$d = r_a \rho \quad (27)$$

Differentiating the above equation gives the following

$$\dot{d} = \dot{r}_a \rho + r_a \dot{\rho} \quad (28)$$

From equation (9)

$$\dot{r}_a = -V_a \quad (29)$$

From equation (8)

$$\dot{\rho} = -\dot{\chi} - \dot{\sigma} \quad (30)$$

Using the relation $a_c = V_a \dot{\chi}$ and from equation (18)

$$\dot{\chi} = \frac{NV_a d}{r_a^2} \quad (31)$$

From equations (13) and (10) we obtain

$$\dot{\sigma} = -\frac{V_a d}{r_a^2} \quad (32)$$

Substituting equations (31) and (32) into (30) gives

$$\dot{\rho} = -(N-1) \frac{V_a d}{r_a^2} \quad (33)$$

From equations (29), (33) and (28) we obtain

$$\dot{d} = -\frac{NV_a d}{r_a} \quad (34)$$

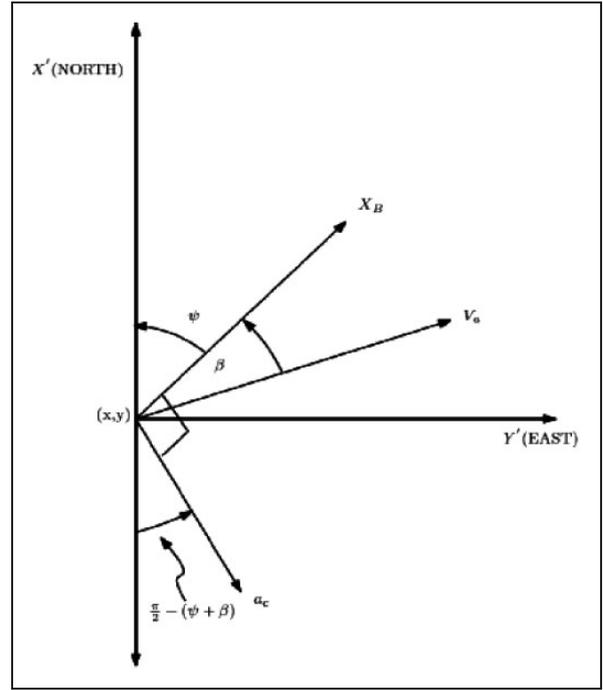


Figure 5. Body fixed lateral inertial plane of the MAV.

Differentiating the above equation and using equation (10) gives

$$\ddot{d} = -NV_a \frac{d}{dt}(\rho) \quad (35)$$

Using equations (31) and (32), (35) can be rewritten as

$$\ddot{d} = (N-1) \frac{NV_a^2 d}{r_a^2} \quad (36)$$

Noting that $a_c = \frac{NV_a^2 d}{r_a^2}$, the desired result is obtained.

The approximation of the non-linear guidance law that is valid for small angles of ρ is given in equation (26). Now as the second step to enable the linearization process, a relationship between a_c and ψ, β is derived. In Figure 5, $X'Y'$ is the body fixed lateral inertial plane of the MAV with X' pointing towards north and Y' pointing towards east, X_B denotes the body X axis, β is the sideslip angle, ψ is the yaw angle. The origin of the body fixed lateral inertial plane is the current position of the MAV denoted by (x, y) . When an acceleration a_c is applied perpendicular to the velocity vector in the yaw plane as shown in the Figure 5, the MAV will move in a circular path in the body fixed lateral inertial plane with an angular velocity $\dot{\psi} + \dot{\beta}$. Then the applied acceleration can be equated to $V_a(\dot{\psi} + \dot{\beta})$ as given in equation (37). The heading angle $\chi = \psi + \beta$. From the Figure 5, we obtain

$$a_c = V_a(\dot{\psi} + \dot{\beta}) \quad (37)$$

The controller design objective is to synthesis a SOF control law

$$U_{dc}(k) = F_d Y_d(k) \quad (53)$$

that minimizes the weighted sensitivity ($Z_1 = W_1 S$), weighted complimentary sensitivity ($Z_2 = W_2 T$) and weighted control input sensitivity ($Z_3 = W_3 K S$). The gain matrix F_d is obtained by solving the LMI (linear matrix inequality) given in equation (54). The matrix N_d is selected using the genetic algorithm (GA) for minimizing a performance index considering the closed loop damping ratio and stability of spiral mode and the resultant LMI is solved for P_d and F_d . The matrix $P_d > 0$ for a feasible solution F_d that stabilizes the closed loop plant. The details of the control design is given in.⁵

$$\begin{pmatrix} -P_d & -(A_{dg} + B_{du}F_d C_d)^T N_d^T \\ -N_d(A_{dg} + B_{du}F_d C_d) & P_d - N_d - N_d^T \end{pmatrix} < 0 \quad (54)$$

The controller gain matrix F_d is given in equation (55).where

$$F_d = [F_{d1}, F_{d2}] \quad (55)$$

$$F_{d1} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.0060 & -0.3378 & -0.8032 \\ 0 & 0.0987 & 0 \\ -1.152 & 36.54 & 0.0042 \end{bmatrix} \quad (56)$$

$$F_{d2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0002 & -0.0007 & 0 & -0.1008 \\ -0.0528 & 0.0008 & -0.0937 & -0.0002 \\ -5.325 & -19.1 & 0.0004 & 0.0091 \end{bmatrix} \quad (57)$$

For the trim conditions at $V_a = 8m/s$, $\dot{\psi} = 0.8rad/s$ and climb rate $\dot{h} = 1m/s$, the dynamic modes of IGC closed loop linear state space model in continuous time domain is given in Table 3 for the navigation constant, $N=2$. From the Table 3, we can see that the spiral mode is stabilized and the damping ratio of other modes have improved when compared to open loop plant. The three poles at the origin corresponding to \tilde{h} , \tilde{x}_1 and \tilde{x}_2 are placed in the left half of the s-plane.

A plot of sensitivity (S) and complementary sensitivity (T) is given in Figure 7. From Figure 7, the closed loop system has good tracking and disturbance rejection performance till 4rad/s. A low value of $-20dB$ is achieved for T beyond 10 rad/s. This indicates rejection of sensor noise and robustness against unmodeled dynamics after a frequency of 10 rad/s. A rise in the value of T between 30 rad/s and 40 rad/s is due to the closed loop natural frequency of short period and Dutch roll mode appearing in that range.

Table 3. Poles of closed loop IGC linear state space model.

Short period mode (ω_{sp}, ζ_{sp})	36.8 rad/s, 0.404
Phugoid mode (ω_{ph}, ζ_{ph})	2.25 rad/s, 0.323
Dutch roll mode, (ω_{dr}, ζ_{dr})	30.0 rad/s, 0.429
Roll subsidence mode	-15.5
Spiral mode	-3.24
Pole for \tilde{h}	-1.50
Poles for \tilde{x}_1, \tilde{x}_2 (ω, ζ)	0.1 rad/s, 0.343
Elevator servo (ω_e, ζ_e)	44.4 rad/s, 0.671
Rudder servo (ω_r, ζ_r)	49.5 rad/s, 0.603

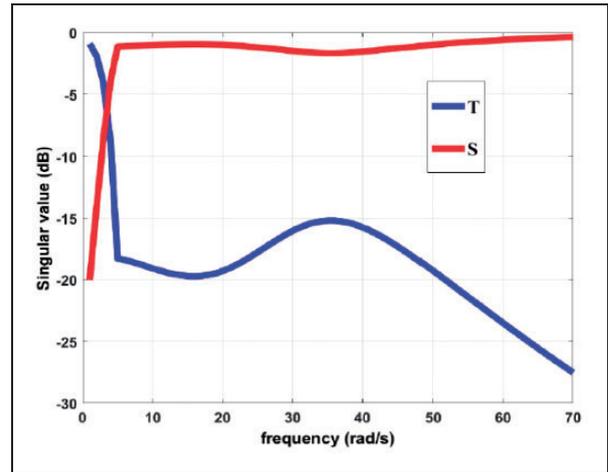


Figure 7. S and T plot for the closed loop IGC state space model.

Waypoint navigation algorithm using IGC framework

Inputs to the algorithm are the current (x, y) position of the MAV obtained from GPS, the desired waypoint position (x_f, y_f), altitude h obtained from altimeter, rate gyro outputs p, q, r and Euler angles ϕ, θ, ψ . The steps are summarized in *Algorithm I*. For a given waypoint, the angle ρ is computed from equation (8) and a constant roll angle command is issued if $|\rho| > 20^\circ$. Here the small angle approximation $\sin\rho = \rho$ and $\cos\rho = 1$ is used for $|\rho| \leq 20^\circ$ and the expression given in equation (26) is valid for the same. The roll angle control for 150 mm MAV given in³ is used here. The altitude is maintained constant while executing the roll angle command. The MAV follows a constant roll angle command $\phi_{ref} = \text{sgn}(\rho)\phi_r$ for $|\rho| > 20^\circ$. Here ϕ_r is a constant value less than the maximum allowed roll angle ϕ_{max} of the MAV. When $|\rho| \leq 20^\circ$, the feasibility of reaching the waypoint is verified using equation (19) and subsequently the control law given in equation (53) is employed as the IGC framework is valid. When the range (r_d) is less than a pre-defined threshold r_t , the waypoint is considered to be reached and the entire process is repeated for a new waypoint.

Algorithm I: Waypoint navigation using IGC frameworkSTEP I: Compute ρ from equation (8).

STEP II:

if $|\rho| > 20^\circ$ **then**

Issue a roll angle hold command

$$\phi_{ref} = \text{sgn}(\rho)\phi_r, \text{ where } 0 < \phi_r < \phi_{max} \text{ and}$$

goto STEP I.**else****if** $r_a > 2R_{min}\sin\rho$ **then**Use the controller structure given in equation (53)
and **goto** STEP III.**else**

Current waypoint is not feasible,

goto STEP IV.**end****end**

STEP III:

if $r_a < r_t$ **then**Waypoint reached, **goto** STEP IV.**else****goto** STEP I.**end**STEP IV: Switch to a new waypoint and **goto** STEP I.

Numerical simulation results for waypoint navigation

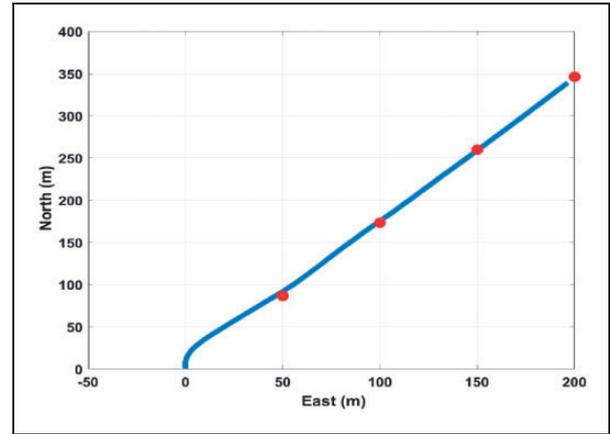
The waypoint navigation algorithm is simulated for the non-linear six degrees of freedom (6DOF) model of the 150 mm MAV given in.¹ Flight test results are presented in,¹ validating the non-linear model used for simulation. Two simulations are performed in which the first one is to demonstrate straight line path following without any wind disturbances. The second simulation is for following a rectangular path without and with wind disturbances. Constraints are put on the actuators while performing the simulations. The range of elevator deflection is $[-35^\circ, 15^\circ]$, rudder deflection is $[-25^\circ, 25^\circ]$ and motor thrust is 0.0–0.45 N. The second order transfer function model is used for elevator and rudder servos. The control input update is done at every 0.02 second. The XY position update is done at every 1 second. All other outputs are sampled at a rate of 0.02 second. The waypoint navigation logic is started when the MAV reach at an altitude of 20 m from the ground level. Altitude feedback is used to maintain the desired altitude of 20 m. For both the simulations, the initial conditions are shown in Table 4.

Straight line following

The objective of the first simulation is to follow a straight line. The XY (North-East) path of the MAV is shown in Figure 8. In Figure 8, red circles represent the waypoints commanded and the solid blue line represents the path followed by the MAV. The plot of miss distance and the angle ρ is given in Figure 9. During the initial stage, the miss distance is

Table 4. Initial conditions for the non-linear simulation.

Variable	Value
V_a, α, β	8 m/s, 0.2286 rad, -0.0532 rad
$\delta_e, \delta_r, \delta_t$	-0.2592 rad, 0.1255 rad, 0.231 N
ϕ, θ, ψ	-0.0361 rad, 0.2304 rad, 0 rad
p, q, r	0 rad/s, 0 rad/s, 0 rad/s
u, v, w	7.78 m/s, -0.43 m/s, 1.81 m/s
x, y, h	0 m, 0 m, 20 m

**Figure 8.** XY plot for MAV straight line following.

high as the first waypoint is not along the line-of-sight (LOS) of the MAV. After 25 seconds, we can see that the value of ρ and miss distance is closer to zero as the MAV got aligned to the straight line. The small angle approximation used in the derivation of the IGC framework is used for $\rho < 20^\circ$. Initially when $\rho > 20^\circ$ till 1.4 seconds, a constant roll angle command of $\phi_r = 10^\circ$ is employed. A plot of Euler angles and angular rates are given in Figure 10. The roll angle ϕ goes to 10° as shown in Figure 10 accordingly. The plot of control inputs is given in Figure 11. The peak value of elevator deflection is less than -16° and that of the rudder is less than 8° . The peak value of elevator deflection is less than 50% of the saturation value of -35° . The peak value of rudder deflection is less than 33% of the saturation value of 25° . Thus the control inputs are well within the saturation limits. The variation airspeed is between 7.7 m/s and 8.2 m/s as seen from Figure 11 and is closer to the trim velocity of 8.0 m/s.

Rectangular path following

The objective of the second simulation is to follow a rectangular path with and without wind disturbances. A sinusoidal cross wind of amplitude 1 m/s and frequency 0.5 rad/s is applied for the case with disturbances. Following a rectangular path enables the MAV to perform surveillance over a given area.

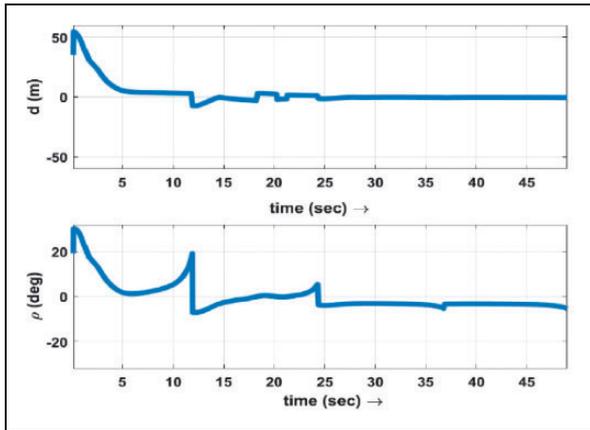


Figure 9. Miss distance and ρ angle plots for MAV straight line following.

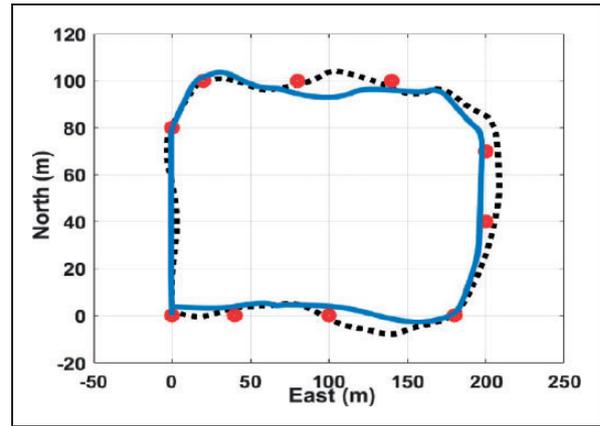


Figure 12. MAV rectangular path following: without wind (solid blue) and with wind (dotted black).

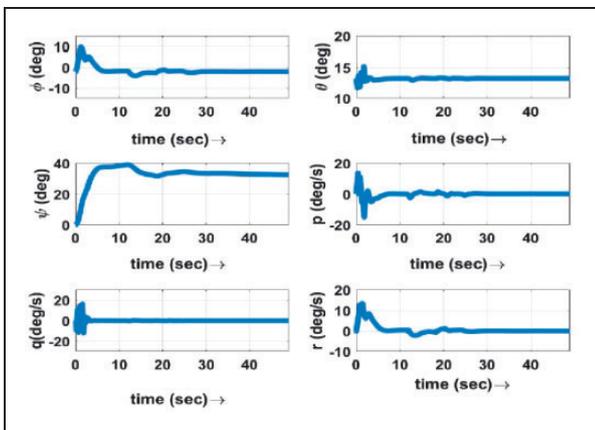


Figure 10. Euler angles and body axis angular rates for MAV straight line following.

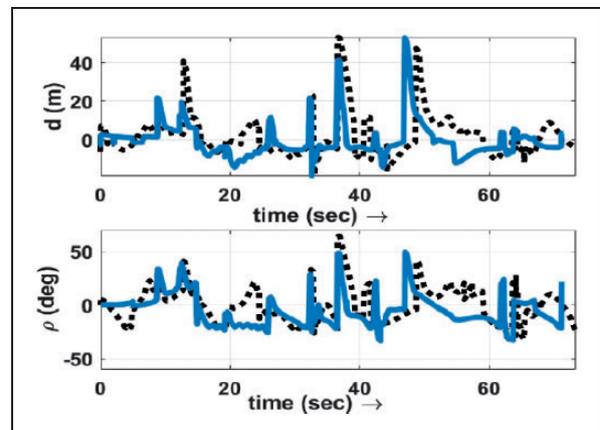


Figure 13. Miss distance and ρ angle plots for rectangular path following: without wind (solid blue) and with wind (dotted black).

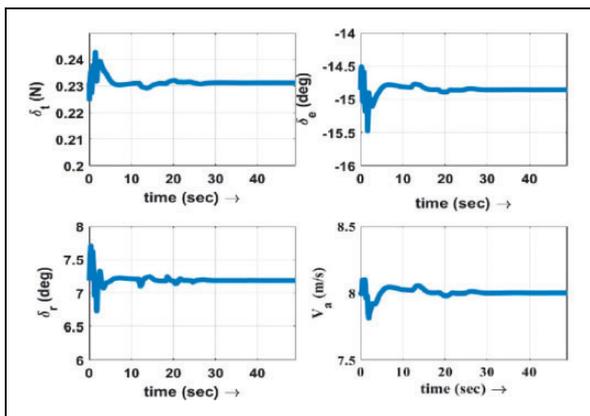


Figure 11. Control inputs and airspeed for straight line following.

The rectangular path considered is of size 100 m x 200 m. The path followed by the MAV is shown in Figure 12 for the case without wind disturbances in solid blue lines and with wind disturbances in dotted black lines. The small red circles denotes the

waypoints along the rectangular path. The starting point of the flight path is at (0,0). For the case without wind disturbances, the MAV is able to follow a path closer to the desired path when compared to the path followed by the MAV with wind disturbances. The plot of d and ρ given in Figure 13 show oscillations whenever MAV switches to a new waypoint. The miss distance goes to zero as the MAV approaches a waypoint. The time taken to traverse all the waypoints is slightly higher for the case with wind disturbances when compared to no wind case. Similarly, the peak value of d and ρ is slightly higher for the case with wind disturbances. The simulation indicate that the closed loop IGC can compensate for wind disturbances of frequency less than 4 rad/s as given in Figure 7.

Robustness against uncertainties

To verify the robustness of the path following of MAV using IGC framework, five cases are considered with uncertainties in aerodynamic parameters, the

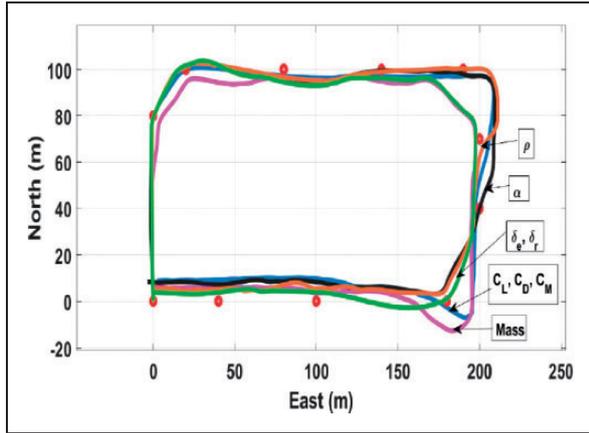


Figure 14. Path following using IGC under perturbations in different parameters.

mass of MAV, the initial condition of the angle of attack (α), initial conditions of control surfaces (δ_e, δ_r) and air density (ρ). The path followed by the MAV for the five cases is given in Figure 14. The aerodynamic parameters considered are the coefficient of lift (C_L), coefficient of drag (C_D) and the coefficient of pitching moment (C_M). A simultaneous perturbation of 5% in C_L , C_D and 10% in C_M is applied (blue curve). Separate perturbations of 10% increase in the value of MAV mass (pink curve), 10% increase in the initial condition of α (black curve) from that given in Table 4 and 10% increase in the value of ρ (orange curve) is applied respectively. Similarly, simulation corresponding to a simultaneous perturbation of 10% in initial conditions of δ_e and δ_r (green curve) from the value given in Table 4 is performed. The perturbations in mass result in maximum deviation from the desired path when compared to perturbations in other parameters. The increase in mass results in the reduction of the component of lift force available for turning manoeuvre, and hence a larger turning radius. In all the five cases, the MAV is stable and hence the proposed IGC framework for path following is robust against parameter uncertainty, change in initial conditions and change in atmospheric conditions.

Effect of navigation constant and sensor noise on the path following

The magnitude of the commanded acceleration a_c depends on the navigation constant N for a fixed value of miss distance and range as given in equation (18). Simulations are performed for various values of $N \in \{2, 3, 4\}$ with IGC framework. The results are given in Figure 15 in the presence of measurement noise. For rate-gyro measurements, noise with a RMS value of 0.00105 rad/s is used corresponding to MPU9150 IMU (Inertial Measurement Unit).²⁶ Noise with RMS value of 0.01 rad is used for the Euler angle measurements ϕ, θ, ψ . The plot of miss

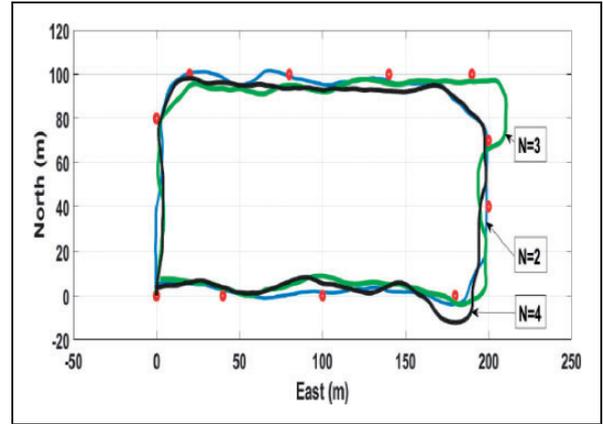


Figure 15. Path followed using IGC for different values of N with sensor noise.

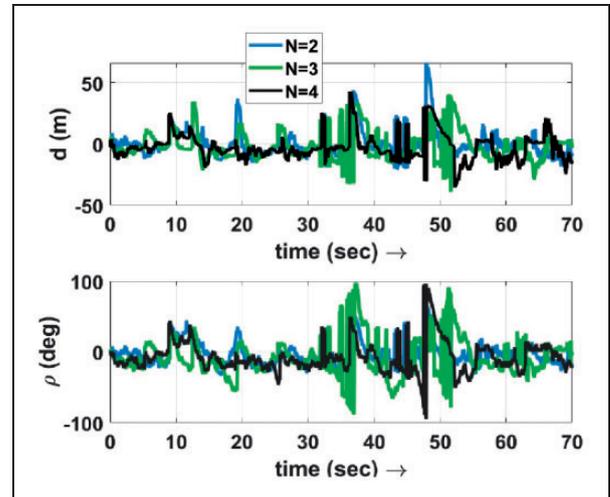


Figure 16. Miss distance and ρ angle plots for path following using IGC for different values of N with sensor noise.

distance and the angle ρ is given in Figure 16. The deviation from the path is higher for $N=3$ when compared to $N=2,4$, as seen from Figure 15. This is because of the oscillations in ρ for $N=3$, as seen in Figure 16. The lowest oscillations in ρ are observed for $N=2$.

Comparison with separate guidance and control

A comparison between the proposed IGC framework based path following and the conventional separate guidance and control (SGC) is performed in this section. In separate guidance and control, the acceleration generated using equation (18) with $N=2$ is converted into equivalent roll angle command using the relation given below.²⁷

$$\phi_{ref} = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{a_c}{g} \right) \quad (58)$$

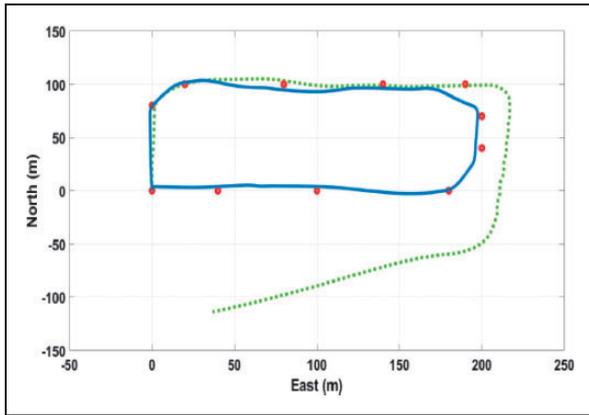


Figure 17. Path followed by IGC (solid blue) and SGC (dotted green) for $r_t = 10$ m.

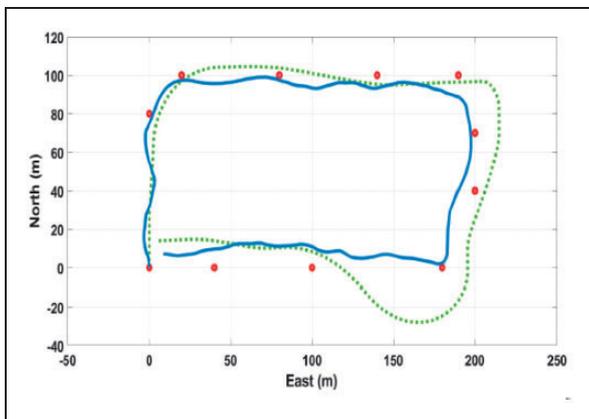


Figure 18. Path followed by IGC (solid blue) and SGC (dotted green) for $r_t = 20$ m.

Simulation results are shown in Figure 17 for the case when the switching distance from one waypoint to another $r_t = 10$ m. The MAV is able to follow the path using IGC (blue curve), while the SGC (dotted green curve) method diverges from the path after following the initial few waypoints. The switching distance, r_t , is increased to 20 m in the next simulation plot shown in Figure 18. The path followed using SGC is having a high deviation from the desired path when compared to the one followed using IGC. Thus the proposed IGC framework allows for tighter bounds on r_t when compared to SGC, thereby improving the path following performance.

Conclusions

The paper presents a novel waypoint navigation algorithm in the IGC framework. The IGC methodology combines unstable MAV coupled dynamics with the pure proportional navigation guidance law. The resulting linear closed loop system is found to be stable with a static output feedback control law. The proposed waypoint navigation algorithm handles

the minimum turn radius constraint of the MAV and determines the feasibility of reaching a given waypoint. The waypoint navigation algorithm does not require any iterative methods to compute the control inputs. The high fidelity nonlinear numerical simulations for straight line and rectangular path following validates the utility of the algorithm. The closed loop IGC framework is capable of attenuating the wind disturbances while path following. The airspeed of the MAV is maintained well above the stall value while performing the path following. The proposed IGC framework based path following is robust against parametric uncertainties and perturbations in initial flight conditions. The performance of the IGC framework based path following is shown to be better than path following based on separate guidance and control. The extension of this algorithm for waypoint navigation in three-dimensional space would be an interesting future work.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Funding

The author(s) disclosed receipt of the following financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article: The authors would like to thank National Programme for Micro Air Vehicle (NPMICAV) and Aeronautical Development and Research Board (ARDB), government of India for partial funding of the project.

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