

Gaussian Process Based Visual Pursuit Control with Unknown Target Motion Learning in Three Dimensions

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Abstract: In this paper, we propose an observer-based visual pursuit control integrating 3-dimensional target motion learning by Gaussian Process Regression (*GPR*). We consider a situation where a visual sensor equipped rigid body pursues a target rigid body whose velocity is unknown, but dependent on the target's pose. We estimate the pose from visual information and propose a Gaussian Process (*GP*) model to predict the target velocity from the pose estimate. We analyze stability of the proposed control by showing that estimation and control errors are ultimately bounded with high probability. Finally, simulations illustrate the performance of the proposed control schemes even if the visual measurement is corrupted by noise.

Key Words: vision-based estimation and control; rigid body motion; Gaussian Process; passivity

1. Introduction

Vision sensors are essential for the recognition of the external world because of their capability of obtaining rich information. The use of vision sensors in robot control has a long history [1] and their importance is increasing along with technological advances in mobile robots. Important applications for vision-equipped mobile robots include infrastructure inspections [2], bird control for farm [3] and biological studies [4]. This paper deals with the problem of estimating and tracking the motion of an object by a mobile robot equipped with a vision sensor.

Control methods that use a vision sensor to estimate the state of a robot in the environment and maintain it in a desired position have been proposed, for example in [5],[6]. The authors of [7],[8] consider tracking control of a target with simultaneous vision-based estimation of the unknown target pose in two dimensions. In contrast to [7] and [8], [9] proposes an observer-based control to pursuit a target rigid body moving in three dimensions. Furthermore, since the target motion is generally unknown, the approach in [9] extends the control law by a target body velocity generator model to achieve pursuit with zero steady-state error. However, since the information of the generator is required prior to the control system design, applicable situations are possibly limited. A promising technique to identify uncertain dynamics without the necessity of prior abundant knowledge is exploited in Machine Learning (*ML*).

Attention in the control community has been given to Gaus-

sian Process (*GP*) models due to the strong Bayesian foundation including their advantage of estimating the uncertainty [10]. However, *ML* techniques typically suffer from lacking theoretical guarantees such as stability analysis, which limits the applicability to non-safety relevant systems. In [11]–[14], a *GP* model is utilized to learn the unknown dynamics and to analyze control performance and stability. By using the mean function of a *GP* model in a feed-forward manner, [13] aims to eliminate unmodeled dynamics and further provide a method to adjust the error feedback gains based on the *GP* variance. The author's recent publication [15] extends the result in [9] with the technique from [13] by integrating the learned *GP* target motion model into the visual pursuit control scheme to guarantee stability with high probability. In [15], a *GP* model learns the unknown body velocity as a function of the target's position for an observer-based control, assuming that the target is moving influenced by the environment, such as terrains and obstacles. However, since the target motion consists of both translation and rotation, the proposed visual pursuit control scheme is limited to a special class of target motions.

This paper proposes a stability-guaranteed visual pursuit control scheme based on a *GP* model that learns the unknown target body velocity, which is not only dependent on the position but also orientation. To begin with, we introduce rigid body motion, visual measurements and *GPR*. Then, the learning method by using *GP* models is addressed. Next, we propose a visual pursuit control law where the learned *GP* mean function is utilized to cancel the target body velocity, and the variance function to adjust error feedback gains. We then derive conditions on the gains to prove ultimate boundedness with high probability of the estimation and control errors. The main contributions of this paper are as follows: (i) extending the class of target body velocity to that of pose-dependent body velocity, (ii) proposing a visual pursuit control law based on the learned *GP* model and proving stability, (iii) showcase effect of gain adjustments by variance for noise attenuation in visual measurement.

In the following, Section 2 briefly describes the problem set-

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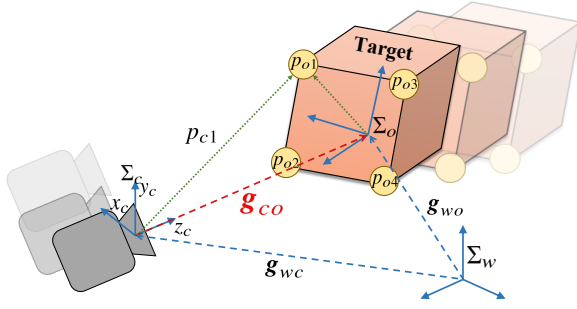


Fig. 1: Target rigid body and camera configuration.

ting and Section 3 addresses a method of *Visual Motion Observed*-based target motion learning. Thereafter, a new *visual pursuit control* with *GP*-prediction is proposed and stability is also analyzed in Section 4. Finally, simulations illustrate the efficiency of the proposed control law in Section 5.

2. Problem Setting

This section introduces the basics of *rigid body motion*, visual measurement [9], and the class of the target body velocity.

2.1 Rigid Body Motion

Assume a target and visual sensor moving in 3-dimensional space (Fig. 1) with inertial coordinate frame Σ_w and body-fixed frames Σ_o, Σ_c . Their orientation and position are denoted by $e^{\hat{\xi}_{wi}\theta_{wi}} \in SO(3) := \{\mathbf{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3} \mid \mathbf{R}\mathbf{R}^T = \mathbf{I}_3, \det(\mathbf{R}) = 1\}$, $i \in \{c, o\}$ and $\mathbf{p}_{wi} \in \mathbb{R}^3$, respectively. Further, $\xi_{wi} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ describes the normalized rotation axis (i.e. $\xi_{wi}^T \xi_{wi} = 1$) and $\theta_{wi} \in (-\pi, \pi]$ resembles the angle of rotation, while for simplicity hereon the shortened notation $\xi\theta_{wi}$ is used. The operator \wedge used in $e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{wi}}$ maps a vector \mathbb{R}^3 to a 3×3 skew symmetric matrix, i.e. $\hat{\mathbf{a}}\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$, $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ where \times the vector cross product [9]. On the contrary, \vee denotes its inverse operator. The pair of both position and orientation is called the pose $\mathbf{g}_{wi} = (\mathbf{p}_{wi}, e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{wi}}) \in SE(3) := \mathbb{R}^3 \times SO(3)$ of Σ_i with respect to Σ_w for $i \in \{c, o\}$. To denote the pose \mathbf{g}_{wi} , we use the following matrix representation:

$$\mathbf{g}_{wo} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{wo}} & \mathbf{p}_{wo} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{g}_{wc} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{wc}} & \mathbf{p}_{wc} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

Similarly, the body velocity is defined as $\mathbf{v}_{wi}^b = (\mathbf{v}_{wi}^b, \omega_{wi}^b) \in \mathbb{R}^6$ with the translational body velocity $\mathbf{v}_{wi}^b \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and the angular body velocity $\omega_{wi}^b \in \mathbb{R}^3$. Then, the target motion and camera motion are described by

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathbf{g}}_{wo} &= \mathbf{g}_{wo} \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{wo}^b, & \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{wo}^b &:= \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\omega}_{wo}^b & \mathbf{v}_{wo}^b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \dot{\mathbf{g}}_{wc} &= \mathbf{g}_{wc} \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{wc}^b, & \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{wc}^b &:= \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\omega}_{wc}^b & \mathbf{v}_{wc}^b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Next, the relative pose of the target (2) relative to the camera (2) is defined as $\mathbf{g}_{co} := \mathbf{g}_{wc}^{-1} \mathbf{g}_{wo} \in SE(3)$ and by taking the derivative, one yields the *relative rigid body motion* (RRBM):

$$\dot{\mathbf{g}}_{co} = -\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{wc}^b \mathbf{g}_{co} + \mathbf{g}_{co} \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{wo}^b. \quad (3)$$

Here we assume that the camera is able to obtain its relative pose \mathbf{g}_{wc} . However, because the target pose \mathbf{g}_{wo} is unknown as there is no way to communicate, \mathbf{g}_{co} cannot be obtained either.

This paper considers a situation where the target rigid body is assumed to move under the influence of terrain and obstacles,

and the body velocity can be considered as a map of the pose \mathbf{g}_{wo} to \mathbb{R}^6 , i.e. $\mathbf{V}_{wo}^b : SE(3) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^6$. Note that this also means that each pose $\mathbf{g}_{wo} \in SE(3)$ is related to one single body velocity $\mathbf{V}_{wo}^b \in \mathbb{R}^6$. In order to learn the body velocity by *GP* we need to define a proper vector representation, which is not a trivial problem since we also aim to guarantee system stability.

To this end, we define the ball with radius π centered at the origin as $B_\pi(0) := \{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid \|\mathbf{a}\| \leq \pi\}$. Since the exponential map is surjective from $B_\pi(0)$ to $SO(3)$ [16], all target orientation $e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{wo}}$ are described by $\xi\theta_{wo} \in B_\pi(0)$. Thus, we introduce the vector representation of $\mathbf{g} \in SE(3)$ as

$$\check{\mathbf{g}} := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p} \\ \xi\theta \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6 \quad (4)$$

and denote the body velocity as

$$\mathbf{V}_{wo}^b : \mathbb{R}^3 \times B_\pi(0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^6, \quad \check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo} \mapsto \mathbf{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}). \quad (5)$$

This is a wider class of the body velocity than that assumed in [15] where the class of body velocity is assumed to be dependent just on the position \mathbf{p}_{wo} , namely, $\mathbf{V}_{wo}^b : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^6$. This paper uses a *GP* model to identify the unknown body velocity \mathbf{V}_{wo}^b as a function of the pose $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$, and use it for visual pursuit control later in Section 4. The stability of the proposed visual pursuit system is also discussed there.

2.2 Visual Measurements

In line with [9,p.105] and following the author's results, the camera model of a pinhole camera is defined. It is used to measure feature points of the moving target in a 3D-environment as shown in Fig. 1. This process of extracting feature points in vast image data is common for real-time visual control scenarios [17]. Thus, we assume that the target has n_f feature points whose position vectors relative to its object frame Σ_o are denoted by $\mathbf{p}_{oi} \in \mathbb{R}^3$, $i = \{1, \dots, n_f\}$, which are known a priori.

Let the position of \mathbf{p}_{oi} as viewed from Σ_c be $\mathbf{p}_{ci} = [x_{ci} \ y_{ci} \ z_{ci}]^T \in \mathbb{R}^3$ satisfying $[\mathbf{p}_{ci}^T \ 1]^T = \mathbf{g}_{co}[\mathbf{p}_{oi}^T \ 1]^T$, $i = \{1, \dots, n_f\}$. It is then projected onto the image plane of the camera by perspective projection [1] as a feature point $\mathbf{f}_i \in \mathbb{R}^2$:

$$\mathbf{f}_i = \frac{\lambda}{z_{ci}} \begin{bmatrix} x_{ci} \\ y_{ci} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (6)$$

with $\lambda > 0$ the focal length. By stacking (6) into a vector we obtain the *visual measurement* $\mathbf{f} := [\mathbf{f}_1^T \ \dots \ \mathbf{f}_{n_f}^T]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{2n_f}$.

3. Observer-based Target Motion Learning

This section addresses how the target motion is learned. Consequently, the *GP* model for the purpose of target motion learning is defined, and in order to collect data for learning of the *GP* model, the *Visual Motion Observer* (VMO) [9] is introduced.

3.1 Gaussian Process Regression

Gaussian Process Regression (*GP*) predicts unknown functions based on input output data and further provides a measure to quantify the model fidelity. Suppose one can measure data pairs of an unknown function $\mathbf{h} : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y} &= \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) + \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \in \mathbb{R}^N, & \mathbf{x} &\in \mathbb{R}^N \\ \boldsymbol{\epsilon} &\sim \mathcal{N}(0, \boldsymbol{\sigma}_n^2) & \boldsymbol{\sigma}_n &:= \text{diag}(\sigma_{n,1}, \dots, \sigma_{n,N}) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

with sub-Gaussian noise such that $|\epsilon_i| \leq \sigma_{n,i}$ almost surely. The training dataset \mathcal{D} consists of M measurements of the input $\{\mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}_{m=1}^M$ and output $\{\mathbf{y}^{(m)}\}_{m=1}^M$ stacked into matrices

$$\mathcal{D} = \{X, Y\}, \quad \begin{aligned} X &:= [\mathbf{x}^{(1)} \dots \mathbf{x}^{(M)}] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times M} \\ Y &:= [\mathbf{y}^{(1)} \dots \mathbf{y}^{(M)}]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Consequently, the prediction $\mathbf{y}^* \in \mathbb{R}^N$ at an input $\mathbf{x}^* \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is jointly Gaussian distributed with prior mean zero, and the mean and variance are defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_i(\mathbf{y}_i^* | \mathcal{D}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}_i, \mathbf{x}^*) &= \mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}(\mathbf{x}^*, X) (\mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i} + \sigma_{n,i}^2 \mathbf{I}_M)^{-1} \mathbf{Y}_i \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i(\mathbf{y}_i^* | \mathcal{D}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}_i, \mathbf{x}^*) &= \mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}^*) \\ &\quad - \mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}(\mathbf{x}^*, X) (\mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i} + \sigma_{n,i}^2 \mathbf{I}_M)^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}(X, \mathbf{x}^*). \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

For notational convenience, the above terms are shortened to $\mu_i(\mathbf{x}^*)$ and $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i(\mathbf{x}^*)$ hereon. Let the correlation between two inputs $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$ be measured by the *SE-ARD kernel*

$$\mathbf{k}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sigma_{f_i}^2 \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{(\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}'_j)^2}{l_{i,j}^2}\right). \quad (10)$$

Remark 1 Since the SE-ARD kernel is an universal kernel, *GPR* with (10) can approximate any continuous function arbitrarily close on a compact set.

The entries of the *GP kernel matrix* $\mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i} := \mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}(X, X) \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M}$ represent the covariance between two elements of the dataset X

$$\mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i, j, j'} := \mathbf{k}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}(X_j, X_{j'}), \quad j, j' \in \{1, \dots, M\}.$$

$\mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}(\mathbf{x}, X) \in \mathbb{R}^M$ denotes the *vector-valued extended covariance function*. \mathbf{Y}_i, X_j resemble the i th, j th column of matrix Y, X and $\mathbf{y}_i^*, \mathbf{x}_j^*$ is the i th, j th element of vector $\mathbf{y}^*, \mathbf{x}^*$. Lastly, $\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i := [l_{i,1}^2 \dots l_{i,6}^2 \sigma_{f_i}^2] \in \mathbb{R}^7$ represents the set of *hyperparameters* with *lengthscales* $l_i^2 > 0$ and *signal variance* $\sigma_{f_i}^2 > 0$ which are typically obtained by likelihood maximization [10].

A kernel for *SE(3)* is proposed in [18], and it can be expected to achieve better regression performance. However, we leave it as future work replacing (10) by the kernel proposed in [18].

3.2 Learning of Target Motion

The goal of this section is to propose a learning method for the unknown target body velocity $\mathbf{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})$ by *GPR* using the target pose $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$ as the input \mathbf{x} , and the target body velocity \mathbf{V}_{wo}^b as the output \mathbf{y} in equation (7). In other words, the *GP* model in this paper predicts a function of the form

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{V}_{wo}^b(\mathbf{x}) + \epsilon, \quad \mathbf{x} = \check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo} \quad (11)$$

Further, the following assumption is necessary such that target motion learning is feasible:

Assumption 1 The target moves in a bounded 3-dimensional field, namely, its position belongs to a compact set $D \subset \mathbb{R}^3$.

Because target movements generally happen in bounded fields and environments, Assumption 1 is non-restrictive.

Since the Cartesian product of two compact sets is again a compact set, the following set is also compact from Assumption 1 and compactness of $B_\pi(0)$:

$$X := D \times B_\pi(0). \quad (12)$$

The combined multi-variable Gaussian distribution in this paper is defined as the overall *GP* model

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}^*) &= [\boldsymbol{\mu}_1 \dots \boldsymbol{\mu}_6]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^6 \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}^*) &= \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_6) \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times 6}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

We now derive the following lemma regarding the upper bound of model fidelity from [19, Theorem 6]:

Lemma 1 Consider the target model (2) and the trained *GP* model (13) with the dataset \mathcal{D} (8). Further, define the *maximum information gain* after observing $M' = M + 1$ data pairs as

$$\zeta_i = \max_{\mathbf{X}' \in \mathcal{X}} \frac{1}{2} \log |I_{M'} + \sigma_{n,i}^{-2} \mathbf{K}'_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}|, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, 6\} \quad (14)$$

with the dataset $\mathbf{X}' := [\mathbf{x}^{(1)} \dots \mathbf{x}^{(M')}] \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times M'}$ and $\mathbf{K}'_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i} := \mathbf{K}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}(\mathbf{X}', \mathbf{X}') \in \mathbb{R}^{M' \times M'}$. Then, the model error is bounded by

$$\mathcal{P}\left\{\forall \check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo} \in \mathcal{X}, \left\| \mu(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}) - \mathbf{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}) \right\| \leq \left\| \beta^\top(\delta) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}) \right\|\right\} \geq \delta \quad (15)$$

for any probability $\delta \in (0, 1)$ and elements of $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^6$ satisfy

$$\beta_i(\delta) = \sqrt{2 \|\mathbf{V}_{wo_i}^b\|_{\mathbf{k}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}}^2 + 300 \zeta_i \ln^3 \left(\frac{M+1}{1 - \sqrt{\delta}} \right)} \quad (16)$$

where $\|\mathbf{V}_{wo_i}^b\|_{\mathbf{k}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}}$ is the bounded reproducing kernel Hilbert space norm associated with kernel $\mathbf{k}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}$ of i th element of \mathbf{V}_{wo}^b .

Note that one can find an upper-bound $\bar{\Delta}$ of the model error as

$$\left\| \beta^\top(\delta) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}) \right\| \leq \bar{\Delta}(\delta) \quad (17)$$

on \mathcal{X} [20]. Furthermore, the parameter β_i increases with the amount of data, but due to a sub-linear dependency of ζ_i on the number of data observed, the bound in (15) can be decreased [12]. Even though $\mathbf{V}_{wo_i}^b$ is not an element of the *RKHS* associated with $\mathbf{k}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}$ (i.e., $\|\mathbf{V}_{wo_i}^b\|_{\mathbf{k}_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}_i}}$ is not bounded), Remark 1 assures their boundedness for functions arbitrarily close to $\mathbf{V}_{wo_i}^b$ [20].

3.3 Visual Motion Observer

Prior to control phase, let the *VMO* estimate the relative pose \mathbf{g}_{co} of a moving target (2) in the perspective of a camera (2) in a training phase in order to collect data of the target pose $\bar{\mathbf{g}}_{wo} := \mathbf{g}_{wc} \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{co}$. The estimated target velocity can be calculated from $\bar{\mathbf{V}}_{wo}^b = \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}^{-1} \dot{\bar{\mathbf{g}}}_{wo}$ and $\dot{\bar{\mathbf{g}}}_{wo} = \dot{\mathbf{g}}_{wc} \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{co} + \mathbf{g}_{wc} \dot{\bar{\mathbf{g}}}_{co}$.

The estimate of \mathbf{g}_{co} is denoted by $\bar{\mathbf{g}}_{co} = (\bar{\mathbf{p}}_{co}, e^{\hat{\xi} \bar{\theta}_{co}})$ and the model for motion estimation [9, Section 6] is given by

$$\dot{\bar{\mathbf{g}}}_{co} = -\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{wc}^b \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{co} - \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{co} \hat{\mathbf{u}}_e. \quad (18)$$

The goal of this section is to find an observer input \mathbf{u}_e for training phase, and later in Section 4 for control phase.

The vector representation of \mathbf{g}^{-1} is given as

$$\text{vec}(\mathbf{g}) := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p} \\ \text{sk}(e^{\hat{\xi} \theta})^\vee \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6 \quad (19)$$

with $\text{sk}(\mathbf{A}) := (1/2)(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A}^\top)$, $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$. Then, the estimation error $\mathbf{g}_{ee} = (\mathbf{p}_{ee}, e^{\hat{\xi} \theta_{ee}}) \in SE(3)$ and its vector representation $\mathbf{e}_e \in \mathbb{R}^6$ are defined as

¹ Using $\text{vec}(\mathbf{g})$ is crucial to show passivity of the visual pursuit system in Lemma 2, but disadvantageous for *GP* learning and prediction since $\text{sk}(e^{\hat{\xi} \theta})^\vee = \xi \sin \theta = \xi \sin(\theta + \pi/2)$ for $|\theta| \in [0, \pi/2]$ [9]. Hence, there might be conflicts in the rotation data.

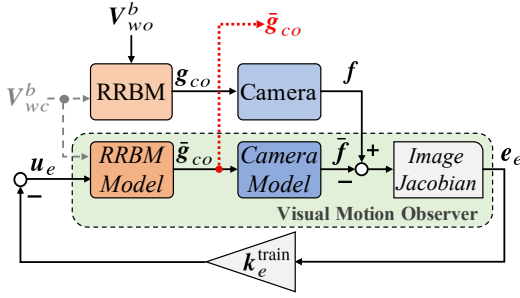


Fig. 2: Block diagram of the VMO for collecting data.

$$\mathbf{g}_{ee} := \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{co}^{-1} \mathbf{g}_{co}, \quad \mathbf{e}_e := \text{vec}(\mathbf{g}_{ee}). \quad (20)$$

Consider the following assumption for motion estimation:

Assumption 2 The estimation error angle is bounded by $|\theta_{ee}(t)| \leq \pi/2, \forall t \geq 0$.

Because of \mathbf{g}_{co} being unavailable, \mathbf{g}_{ee} and \mathbf{e}_e cannot be computed along definition (20). However, the estimated visual measurement $\hat{\mathbf{f}}$ can be calculated from $\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{co}$ and (6), thus the error $\mathbf{f}_e := \mathbf{f} - \hat{\mathbf{f}}$ can be obtained. Further, for small $|\theta_{ee}|$ (Assumption 2), it holds that $\mathbf{f}_e = J(\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{co})\mathbf{e}_e$, with the image Jacobian $J(\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{co})$ from [9,p.108]. Since the pseudo-inverse $J^\dagger(\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{co})$ of $J(\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{co})$ can be obtained when $n_f \geq 4$, the estimation error can be calculated from

$$\mathbf{e}_e = J^\dagger(\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{co})\mathbf{f}_e. \quad (21)$$

In order to design observer input \mathbf{u}_e , one derives the estimation error (20) from the definitions of RRBM (3) and VMO (18) as

$$\dot{\mathbf{g}}_{ee} = \hat{\mathbf{u}}_e \mathbf{g}_{ee} + \mathbf{g}_{ee} \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{wo}^b. \quad (22)$$

Defining the notation $\mathbf{V}_{ee}^b := (\mathbf{g}_{ee}^{-1} \dot{\mathbf{g}}_{ee})^\vee$ yields $\mathbf{V}_{ee}^b = \text{Ad}_{(\mathbf{g}_{ee}^{-1})} \mathbf{u}_e + \mathbf{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})$ with the adjoint transformation of \mathbf{g} [9] given as

$$\text{Ad}_{(\mathbf{g})} := \begin{bmatrix} e^{\hat{\xi}\theta} & \hat{\mathbf{p}}e^{\hat{\xi}\theta} \\ 0 & e^{\hat{\xi}\theta} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times 6}. \quad (23)$$

In addition, we define $\text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta})} := \text{Ad}_{(0, e^{\hat{\xi}\theta})}$. Finally, the observer input $\mathbf{u}_e = -k_e^{\text{train}} \mathbf{e}_e$ with $k_e^{\text{train}} > 0$ makes the equilibrium $\mathbf{e}_e = 0$ asymptotically stable when the target is static ($\mathbf{V}_{wo}^b \equiv 0$) [9, Corollary 6.3]. Furthermore, with the result of L_2 stability in [9, Theorem 6.4], one can still get good performance for a moving target when the gain k_e^{train} is large enough. Therefore, a high gain assures that one can train a GP model from the estimated pose assuming that $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo} \approx \check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$. The block diagram of the VMO for target motion learning is shown in Fig. 2.

4. Visual Pursuit Control with GP Target Motion

The goal is now to combine the VMO with the GP model in feed-forward fashion from the previous Section 3 for a visual pursuit control scenario. In contrast to the author's previous publication [15], the full pose is incorporated for the control scheme. Further, differently to Section 3, it is not assumed that $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo} \approx \check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$ since it is too risky in a control setting to use large gains that might amplify noise severely.

4.1 GP-enhanced Visual Pursuit Control

The visual pursuit control (VPC) aims to drive the relative pose \mathbf{g}_{co} from (3) to a desired pose $\mathbf{g}_d \in SE(3)$ utilizing the

VMO from Section 3.3. Similar to the estimation error (20), one defines the pose control error $\mathbf{g}_{ce} = (\mathbf{p}_{ce}, e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ce}}) \in SE(3)$ and control error $\mathbf{e}_c \in \mathbb{R}^6$ as

$$\mathbf{g}_{ce} := \mathbf{g}_d^{-1} \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{co}, \quad \mathbf{e}_c := \text{vec}(\mathbf{g}_{ce}). \quad (24)$$

We assume the following for the control error:

Assumption 3 The control error angle is bounded by $|\theta_{ce}(t)| \leq \pi/2, \forall t \geq 0$.

This assumption is in general satisfied due to the given scenario as the target moves slower than the robot with camera.

Again, differentiating the control error (24) we achieve

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathbf{g}}_{ce} &= \hat{\mathbf{u}}_c \mathbf{g}_{ce} - \mathbf{g}_{ce} \hat{\mathbf{u}}_e, \\ \mathbf{u}_c &:= -\text{Ad}_{(\mathbf{g}_d^{-1})} \mathbf{V}_{wc}^b, \quad \hat{\mathbf{u}}_c = -\mathbf{g}_d^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{wc}^b \mathbf{g}_d \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

and thus the control error system results to

$$\mathbf{V}_{ce}^b := (\mathbf{g}_{ce}^{-1} \dot{\mathbf{g}}_{ce})^\vee = -\mathbf{u}_e + \text{Ad}_{(\mathbf{g}_{ce}^{-1})} \mathbf{u}_c \quad (26)$$

with \mathbf{V}_{ce}^b the control error velocity. Finally, the combination of both \mathbf{V}_{ce}^b and \mathbf{V}_{ee}^b obtained in Section 3.3 yields the error system

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_{ce}^b \\ \mathbf{V}_{ee}^b \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} \text{Ad}_{(\mathbf{g}_{ce}^{-1})} & -\mathbf{I}_3 \\ 0 & \text{Ad}_{(\mathbf{g}_{ee}^{-1})} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{u} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbf{I}_6 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}) \\ \mathbf{u} &:= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_c \\ \mathbf{u}_e \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{12}. \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

The goal is now to find a suitable input \mathbf{u} that adapts the GP model from Section 3.2.

To this end, we first show passivity of the error system. We define the positive definite function

$$\begin{aligned} S &:= \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{p}_{ce}\|^2 + \phi(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ce}}) + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{p}_{ee}\|^2 + \phi(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ee}}) \\ \phi(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta}) &:= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\mathbf{I}_3 - e^{\hat{\xi}\theta}) \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

and the total error $\mathbf{e} = [\mathbf{e}_c^\top \mathbf{e}_e^\top]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^6$ and output $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^{12}$ as

$$\mathbf{v} := \mathbf{N} \mathbf{e}, \quad \mathbf{N} := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_6 & 0 \\ -\text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ce}})} & \mathbf{I}_6 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (29)$$

Then, the following lemma is derived:

Lemma 2 (Lemma 7.1 [9]) The time derivative of S (28) along with the error system (27) obeys

$$\dot{S} = \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{e}^\top \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ce}})} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}). \quad (30)$$

Proof: Refer to [9, Equation (6.2)]. ■

Hence, for the case of the static target ($\mathbf{V}_{wo}^b \equiv 0$), the error system (27) is passive from input \mathbf{u} to output \mathbf{v} with respect to the storage function S . Thus, for the given scenario of a moving target ($\mathbf{V}_{wo}^b \neq 0$) under Assumption 2, we propose the following input \mathbf{u} using $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo} = \mathbf{g}_{wc} \mathbf{g}_{co}$ as:

$$\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{K}(\Sigma(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})) \mathbf{v} - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ce}})} \text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ee}})} \\ \text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ee}})} \end{bmatrix}}_{:= \text{Ad}} \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}). \quad (31)$$

The first term achieves asymptotic stability of the equilibrium point $\mathbf{e} = 0$ when $\mathbf{V}_{wo}^b = 0$ [9, Corollary 7.2]. In addition, the

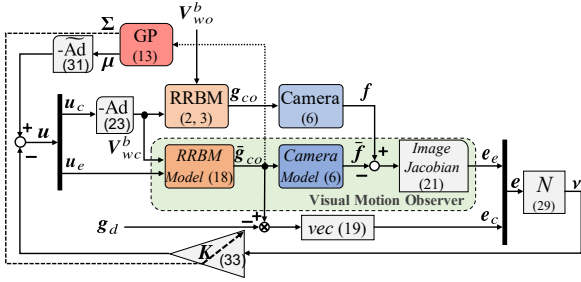


Fig. 3: Block diagram of VPC with designed input (31).

mean $\mu(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})$ from (13) attempts to cancel the disturbance V_{wo}^b in feed-forward fashion. Moreover, the error feedback gain \mathbf{K} varies depending on the GP model confidence $\Sigma(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})$, which is designed later. Hereafter, we denote $\Sigma(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})$ as simply Σ . The rotational error $e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ee}}$ in $\text{Ad}(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ee}})$ can be calculated from $\text{sk}(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ee}})^\vee$ under Assumption 2 from [21] as follows:

$$e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ee}} = \exp\left(\frac{\sin^{-1}\left(\left\|\text{sk}(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ee}})^\vee\right\|\right)}{\left\|\text{sk}(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ee}})^\vee\right\|}\text{sk}(e^{\hat{\xi}\theta_{ee}})\right). \quad (32)$$

As a remark, the controller is similar to [15], but rather than using only the estimate target position as an input for the GP model, both estimates of position and orientation are used in this approach, since a wider class of the target velocity is considered as given by (5). Furthermore, let the controller $\mathbf{K}(\Sigma(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}))$ be of the form

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{K}(\Sigma) &:= \text{diag}(\mathbf{K}_c(\Sigma), \mathbf{K}_e(\Sigma)) \in \mathbb{R}^{12 \times 12} \\ \mathbf{K}_c(\Sigma) &:= \text{diag}(k_{c_1}(\Sigma), \dots, k_{c_6}(\Sigma)) \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times 6} \\ \mathbf{K}_e(\Sigma) &:= \text{diag}(k_{e_p}(\Sigma)\mathbf{I}_3, k_{e_R}(\Sigma)\mathbf{I}_3) \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times 6} \\ 0 < \underline{k}_{c_i} &\leq k_{c_i}(\Sigma) \leq \bar{k}_{c_i}, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, 6\} \\ 0 < \underline{k}_{e_p} &\leq k_{e_p}(\Sigma) \leq \bar{k}_{e_p}, \quad 0 < \underline{k}_{e_R} \leq k_{e_R}(\Sigma) \leq \bar{k}_{e_R}. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

where $k_{c_i}(\Sigma)$, $k_{e_p}(\Sigma)$, $k_{e_R}(\Sigma)$ are designed to be continuous in Σ . Furthermore, remember that μ is dependent on the estimate $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$ rather than on the real \mathbf{g}_{wo} which is unavailable. However, the difference between $\mu(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})$ and $\mu(\mathbf{g}_{wo})$ can be bounded based on Lipschitz continuity of the GP mean function and its kernel \mathbf{k}_φ , [10]:

Lemma 3 The error between the prediction of $V_{wo}^b(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})$ by the real \mathbf{g}_{wo} and the estimate $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$ on \mathcal{X} is bounded as follow:

$$\left\|\mu(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}) - \mu(\mathbf{g}_{wo})\right\| \leq L_p \|\mathbf{p}_{ee}\| + 2\pi L_\theta, \quad (34)$$

where L_p , L_θ denote Lipschitz constants.

Proof: Refer to Appendix A. ■

Lemma 3 is necessary for stability analysis of the error system shown in Fig. 3.

4.2 Stability Analysis

This section addresses the main theorem on stability of the system in Fig. 3 based on the notion of ultimate boundedness. Now we show the main result.

Theorem 1 Consider the error system (27) with input (31) and a trained GP model (13) with dataset \mathcal{D} (8). Further, suppose

that Assumptions 1 to 3 hold and the gain $\mathbf{K}(\Sigma(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}))$ in (33) satisfies the following for all $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$:

$$\mathbf{Q}(\Sigma) := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_c(\Sigma) + \mathbf{K}_e(\Sigma) & -\mathbf{K}_e(\Sigma) \\ -\mathbf{K}_e(\Sigma) & \mathbf{K}_e(\Sigma) - \Gamma \end{bmatrix} > 0 \quad (35)$$

where the matrix Γ is defined as

$$\Gamma := \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\gamma_1^2} + \frac{L_p}{\gamma_2^2} + \frac{L_\theta}{\gamma_3^2} \right) \mathbf{I}_6 + \frac{L_p \gamma_2^2}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (36)$$

with positive constants $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3 > 0$ and L_p, L_θ obtained in Lemma 3. Then, there exist a $\rho(\delta) > 0$ and a $T(\delta) \geq 0$ with any probability $\delta \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$\mathcal{P}\{\|e(t)\| \leq b, \forall t \geq T\} \geq \delta \quad (37)$$

$$b(\delta) := \sqrt{\frac{\gamma_1^2 \bar{\Delta}^2(\delta) + 4\gamma_3^2 \pi L_\theta}{2\eta \lambda_Q}}, \quad \eta \in (0, 1) \quad (38)$$

for any $e(0)$ satisfying $\|e(0)\| \leq \rho(\delta)$ where the minimum eigenvalue of $\mathbf{Q}(\Sigma)$ is represented by $\lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{Q}(\Sigma))$, and $\lambda_Q := \min_{\Sigma} \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{Q}(\Sigma))$.

Proof: Refer to Appendix B. ■

Inferring from the gain condition (35), large Lipschitz constants L_p and L_θ imply large control and observer gains. This may indicate that the unknown function V_{wo}^b may change sensitively with small variations in $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$.

Note that [15, Theorem 1] only assures a probabilistic bounded error for the GP-enhanced VPC for a class of target body velocities $V_{wo}^b(\mathbf{p}_{wo})$, and thus Γ and the ball (37) lack terms specific to the orientation. Furthermore, due to the matrix \mathbf{Q} being a function of the variance $\Sigma(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})$, the condition (35) has to be confirmed for all $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$, which makes the design difficult. Hence, we derive the following corollary for a simpler gain condition with the simplified control gain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{K}_c(\Sigma) &:= \text{diag}(k_{c_p}(\Sigma)\mathbf{I}_3, k_{c_R}(\Sigma)\mathbf{I}_3) \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times 6} \\ 0 < \underline{k}_{c_p} &\leq k_{c_p}(\Sigma) \leq \bar{k}_{c_p}, \quad 0 < \underline{k}_{c_R} \leq k_{c_R}(\Sigma) \leq \bar{k}_{c_R}. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

Corollary 1 Consider the error system (27) with input (31) and a trained GP model (13) with dataset \mathcal{D} (8). Further, suppose that Assumptions 1 to 3 hold and $\underline{k}_{c_i}, \underline{k}_{e_i}$ satisfy

$$\frac{2\underline{k}_{c_i} \underline{k}_{e_i}}{\underline{k}_{c_i} + \underline{k}_{e_i}} > \frac{1}{\gamma_1^2} + \left(\frac{1}{\gamma_2^2} + \alpha_i \gamma_2^2 \right) L_p + \frac{L_\theta}{\gamma_3^2}, \quad i \in \{p, R\} \quad (40)$$

with $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3 > 0$ and $\alpha_p = 1, \alpha_R = 0$. Then, there exist a $\rho(\delta) > 0$ and a $T(\delta) \geq 0$ with any probability $\delta \in (0, 1)$ such that (37) with (38) holds for any $e(0)$ satisfying $\|e(0)\| \leq \rho(\delta)$.

Proof: From the Schur complement, the condition (35) is simplified to $\mathbf{K}_e(\Sigma) - \Gamma - \mathbf{K}_e(\Sigma)(\mathbf{K}_c(\Sigma) + \mathbf{K}_e(\Sigma))^{-1} \mathbf{K}_e(\Sigma) > 0$. Due to a difference in Γ , it follows two conditions on the gains for the position part and orientation part that are summarized in only one condition by defining parameter α_i . By employing the structure of controller (33), the condition is further shortened to

$$\frac{2k_{c_i}(\Sigma)k_{e_i}(\Sigma)}{k_{c_i}(\Sigma) + k_{e_i}(\Sigma)} > \frac{1}{\gamma_1^2} + \left(\frac{1}{\gamma_2^2} + \alpha_i \gamma_2^2 \right) L_p + \frac{L_\theta}{\gamma_3^2} \quad (41)$$

for $i = \{p, R\}$. Since the left term is minimal for $\underline{k}_{c_i}, \underline{k}_{e_i}$, the condition is simplified to (40). ■

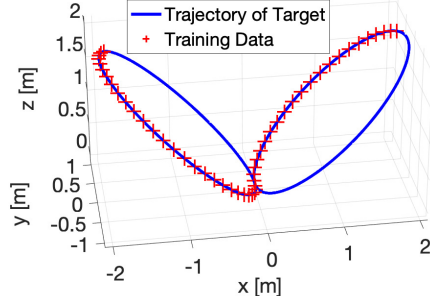


Fig. 4: "Butterfly" trajectory of the moving target. The target also rotates around world axis z as given by (45).

As long as the minimum controller gains $k_{c_i}(\Sigma)$, $k_{e_i}(\Sigma)$ of (33) meet the gain condition (40), stability is assured. The purpose of having uncertainty-adjustable controller gains is to achieve better noise attenuation. Hence, small gains are desired if it does not alter the control performance.

In the next section we will show how to obtain the Lipschitz constants L_p and L_θ that are used in Theorem 1 and Corollary 1.

4.3 Calculation of Lipschitz Constant

This section aims to show a method to calculate the Lipschitz constants of the GP -mean function $\mu(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})$ that are necessary for designing the controller gains (33).

By discretizing \mathcal{X} properly one can estimate

$$L_i = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \left\| \frac{\partial \mu_i(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right\|, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, 6\}. \quad (42)$$

Here, we use the notation $\mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{x}_1^\top \ \mathbf{x}_2^\top]^\top$, $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^3$. Then, the Lipschitz constants L_p , L_θ are calculated from $\left\| \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial \mathbf{x}_1} \right\| \leq \sqrt{L_1^2 + L_2^2 + L_3^2} = L_\theta$, $\left\| \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial \mathbf{x}_2} \right\| \leq \sqrt{L_4^2 + L_5^2 + L_6^2} = L_p$. For notational simplicity, restate (9) with $\mathbf{k}_{\varphi_i}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathbf{k}_{\varphi_i}^\top(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{X})$ and $\tau_i := (\mathbf{K}_{\varphi_i} + \sigma_{n,i}^2 \mathbf{I}M)^{-1} \mathbf{Y}_i$ as $\mu_i(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{k}_{\varphi_i,m}(\mathbf{x}) \tau_{i,m}$. Then, computing the derivative of the SE -ARD kernel (10) as

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{k}_{\varphi_i,m}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}_j} = \mathbf{k}_{\varphi_i,m}(\mathbf{x}) \frac{\mathbf{x}_j^{(m)} - \mathbf{x}_j}{l_{i,j}^2}, \quad j \in \{1, \dots, 6\}, \quad (43)$$

then the norm in (42) obeys

$$\left\| \frac{\partial \mu_i(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right\| = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^6 \left(\sum_{m=1}^M \tau_{i,m} \mathbf{k}_{\varphi_i,m}(\mathbf{x}) \frac{\mathbf{x}_j^{(m)} - \mathbf{x}_j}{l_{i,j}^2} \right)^2}. \quad (44)$$

By finding the maximum value in (44) on the discretized \mathcal{X} , the Lipschitz constants L_p , L_θ are obtained.

5. Simulation Experiment

This section aims to show the effectiveness of the proposed control scheme (33) in two simulations. The first simulation showcases the effectiveness of using pose information $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$ rather than only the position \mathbf{p}_{wo} from the author's previous work [15]. In the second simulation we show the advantage of using variance-dependent varying gains when the visual measurements (6) are corrupted by noise. Feature extractions from visual measurements always cause noise. We consider the combination of two kinds of noise: a stochastic signal and an impulsive signal.

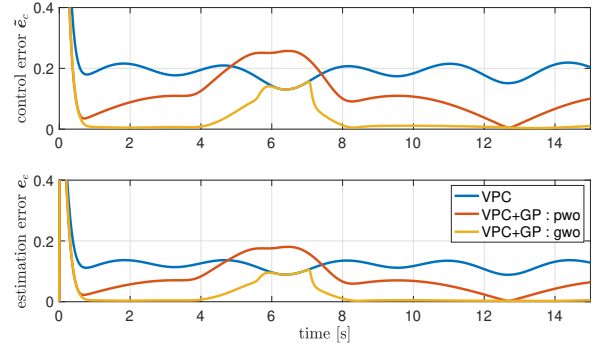


Fig. 5: Estimation and control error.

Table 1: Root Mean Square Error of total error $[\tilde{\mathbf{e}}_c^\top \ \tilde{\mathbf{e}}_e^\top]^\top$

	no GP	$\mu(\bar{\mathbf{p}}_{wo})$	$\mu(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})$
RMSE	0.275	0.223	0.167

Now, define the following specific simulation environment. The target moves according to the body velocity

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}_{wo}^b &= [\pm \sin(t) \ \cos(t) \ \sin(t)]^\top \\ \boldsymbol{\omega}_{wo}^b &= [0 \ 0 \ (\pi/2) \sin(0.5t)]^\top, \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

starting from $t = 0$ and the initial position $\mathbf{p}_{wo}(0) = [0, 0, 0]^\top$ and orientation $\boldsymbol{\xi}_{wo}(0) = [0, 0, 0]^\top$, resulting in a butterfly-like trajectory (Fig. 4), and continuing to move on the right wing in a region of observed data first. Even though the body velocity (45) is not described by a function of $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$, it is still possible to learn $\mathbf{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo})$ because of its periodic motion. Note that, depending on the wing, the target approaches the origin at two different orientations $\theta_{wo} = 0$ and $\theta_{wo} = \pi$. It is assumed that only half of each wing can be measured, resulting in a total of $M = 50$ data-pairs indicated by red crosses in Fig. 4. The method of obtaining the data and training a GP model follows the discussion in Section 3.2, where the GP model is trained on the VMO estimate by accurate enough $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo} \approx \check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$ with high estimation gain k_e^{train} . The total simulation time is 15s. Also define the control error $\tilde{\mathbf{e}}_c := \text{vec}(\mathbf{g}_d^{-1} \mathbf{g}_{co})$ when using the real target's pose instead of the estimate $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{co}$ to showcase the influence of noise on the pursuit problem.

5.1 Performance Comparison with Static Gains

To prove the benefit of using pose information $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$ for the GP model, in this simulation it competes against the standard VPC in [9] (no GP) and the author's previous work of using the position $\bar{\mathbf{p}}_{wo}$ only [15]. The diagonal gain elements are all set as $k_e = 25$, $k_c = 20$. The results are shown in Fig. 5. It is easily observed that using a GP model with pose estimate $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$ always outperforms $\bar{\mathbf{p}}_{wo}$ and the standard VPC . When the target moves outside the trained data path (from $t = 4\text{s} \sim 8\text{s}$), $\bar{\mathbf{p}}_{wo}$ performs worse than standard VPC which results from a misprediction due to crossing the trained data path. It can be inferred that $\bar{\mathbf{p}}_{wo}$ imposes a disadvantage at predicting the target motion well even on trained data path if it is rotating, whilst nearly zero state error in both control and estimation is achieved for $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$. We achieve a 25% lower $RMSE$ when using $\check{\mathbf{g}}_{wo}$ compared to $\bar{\mathbf{p}}_{wo}$ (see Table 1).

5.2 Noise Attenuation with Varying Gains

In order to show the advantage of the varying gain, the following simulation incorporates noise in the visual measure-

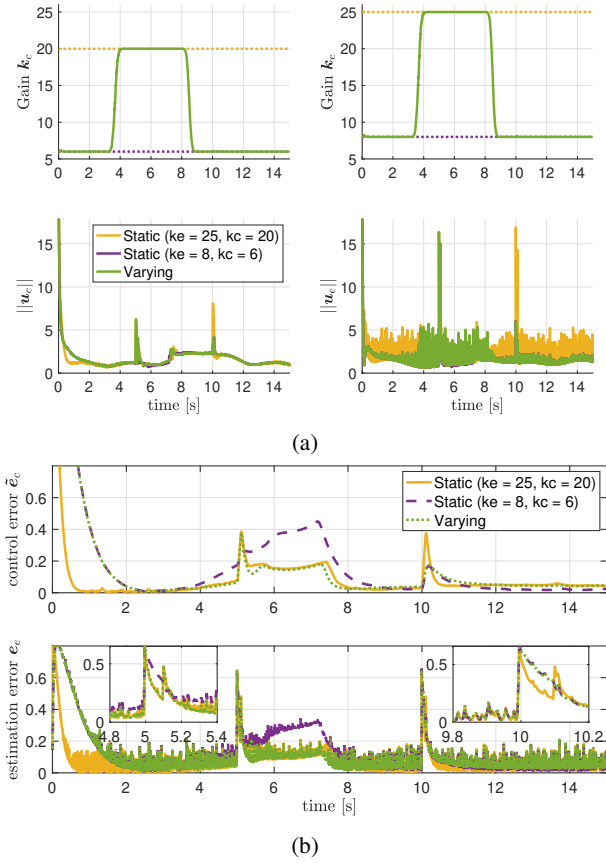


Fig. 6: (a) control and observer inputs with varying gains, (b) estimation and control error.

ments (6). For GP learning phase it is assumed that the measured pose \check{g}_{wo} and target velocity V_{wo}^b are both corrupted by Gaussian noise $\mathcal{N}(0, 0.1^2)$. Then, the obtained GP model results in estimated Lipschitz constants $L_p = 1.75$ and $L_\theta = 2.53$ by using the result from (44). Finally, by setting the design parameters in Corollary 1 as $\gamma_1 = 4$, $\gamma_2 = 1$, $\gamma_3 = 1$, different from the authors previous work [15] the varying gain function for estimation and control are hereafter chosen as

$$\begin{aligned} k_{c_i}(\Sigma) &= (\bar{k}_{c_i} - \underline{k}_{c_i}) \left(1 - e^{-1000\Sigma_i^2}\right) + \underline{k}_{c_i}, \\ k_{e_i}(\Sigma) &= (\bar{k}_{e_i} - \underline{k}_{e_i}) \left(1 - e^{-1000\Sigma_i^2}\right) + \underline{k}_{e_i}, \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

with $\bar{k}_{e_i} = 25$, $\underline{k}_{e_i} = 8$, $\bar{k}_{c_i} = 20$, $\underline{k}_{c_i} = 6$, $i = \{p, R\}$. The varying gain function fulfills the designated bounds (33). The reason for choosing (46) rather than the linear function used in [15] is due to the better tuning parameter that allows to adjust to the width of the uncertainty distribution. In the simulation the varying gains compete against both static gains of upper bounds $\bar{k}_{c_i}, \bar{k}_{e_i}$ and lower bounds $\underline{k}_{c_i}, \underline{k}_{e_i}$, respectively. During control phase, the visual measurement f of the camera model is corrupted by Gaussian noise $\mathcal{N}(0, 0.0001^2)$ and an impulsive noise of power 0.0007 that is added twice on f_1 at times $t = 5s$, $t = 10s$ and last for 0.1s.

The results are shown in Fig. 6. Since the target moves in the area where the data are available for GP training before 4s and after 8s, the varying gain changes between the lower and upper bound values for the same period as seen in the top of Fig. 6a. While the influence of the noise on control input u_c is small for all cases, the observer input u_e becomes noisy. However, noise amplification for the lower gain and varying gain case

is smaller than that of the upper gain case. The results of the varying gain and upper gain cases are shown in Fig. 6b, where it can be observed that \tilde{e}_c and e_e are similar after the initial responses converge at around 2s. Furthermore, \tilde{e}_c shows the effect of impulsive noise clearly. The lower gain case shows the best noise attenuation at 5s but the varying gain case has similar performance at 10s since the variance and gains are also small. On the other hand, the upper gain amplifies the impulsive noise at 10s much larger than the other cases. In summary, the varying gain can achieve similar performance as the upper bound static gain but with better noise attenuation.

6. Conclusion

This paper proposed a visual pursuit control scheme based on a GP model that learns the unknown but pose dependent target body velocity. First, the learning method by using GP models was addressed. Second, we proposed a visual pursuit control law in which the learned GP mean function is used to cancel the target body velocity, and the variance function to adjust gains. We then derived conditions on the gains to make the estimation and control errors ultimate bounded with high probability. Finally, we demonstrated the effectiveness of the proposed control law in the situation where the visual measurements are corrupted by noise.

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Appendix

A Proof of Lemma 3

By triangle inequality, [22, Lemma 3.1 & 3.2] about Lipschitz continuity in the multivariate case, and the fact that kernel (10) and its partial derivatives are continuous [10], there exist constants L_p and L_θ on \mathcal{X} such that

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\check{\boldsymbol{g}}}_{wo}) \right\| &\leq \left\| \boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{p}_{wo}, \boldsymbol{\xi}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{wo}) - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\bar{\boldsymbol{p}}_{wo}, \boldsymbol{\xi}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{wo}) \right\| \\ &+ \left\| \boldsymbol{\mu}(\bar{\boldsymbol{p}}_{wo}, \boldsymbol{\xi}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{wo}) - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\bar{\boldsymbol{p}}_{wo}, \bar{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\bar{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{wo}) \right\| \\ &\leq L_p \left\| \boldsymbol{p}_{wo} - \bar{\boldsymbol{p}}_{wo} \right\| + L_\theta \left\| \boldsymbol{\xi}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{wo} - \bar{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\bar{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{wo} \right\| \quad (47) \end{aligned}$$

Since $\left\| \boldsymbol{p}_{wo} - \bar{\boldsymbol{p}}_{wo} \right\| = \left\| e^{\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ce}}(\boldsymbol{p}_{co} - \bar{\boldsymbol{p}}_{co}) \right\| = \left\| \boldsymbol{p}_{ee} \right\|$ and $\boldsymbol{\xi}\boldsymbol{\theta}, \bar{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\bar{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{wo} \in B_\pi(0)$, $\left\| \boldsymbol{\xi}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{wo} - \bar{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\bar{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{wo} \right\| \leq 2\pi$ holds, (34) is obtained from (47). Note that differently to the position, $\boldsymbol{\xi}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{wo} - \bar{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\bar{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{wo}$ cannot be associated with $\boldsymbol{\xi}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ee}$. Thus, the worst case bound is employed.

B Proof of Theorem 1

In this proof, we use the following lemma about the relation between $\boldsymbol{Q}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ and $\tilde{\boldsymbol{Q}}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})$. The dependency on $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ is omitted for simplicity of notation here.

Lemma 4 Matrix $\tilde{\boldsymbol{Q}}$ is similar to matrix \boldsymbol{Q} .

Proof: It suffices to find a normal matrix P such that $P\boldsymbol{Q}P^{-1} = \tilde{\boldsymbol{Q}}$. Choose $P = \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{I}_6, \text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ce}})})$, then one obtains:

$$P\boldsymbol{Q}P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{K}_c + \boldsymbol{K}_e & -\boldsymbol{K}_e \text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ce}})} \\ -\text{Ad}_{(e^{-\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ce}})}\boldsymbol{K}_e & \text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ce}})}(\boldsymbol{K}_e - \Gamma)\text{Ad}_{(e^{-\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ce}})} \end{bmatrix}$$

From the structure of \boldsymbol{K}_e and Γ , $\text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ce}})}(\boldsymbol{K}_e - \Gamma)\text{Ad}_{(e^{-\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ce}})} = \boldsymbol{K}_e - \Gamma$ and $P\boldsymbol{Q}P^{-1} = \tilde{\boldsymbol{Q}}$ holds. Hence, $\tilde{\boldsymbol{Q}}$ is similar to \boldsymbol{Q} . ■

We start the proof of Theorem 1 by showing that S is lower and upper bounded by class \mathcal{K} functions α_1, α_2 . Consider the two class \mathcal{K} functions:

$$\alpha_1(\|e\|) = \frac{1}{2}\|e\|^2, \quad \alpha_2(\|e\|) = \|e\|^2. \quad (48)$$

From Proposition 5.3 in [9], $\|\text{sk}(e^{\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}})^\vee\|^2 \leq \phi(e^{\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}}) \leq 2\|\text{sk}(e^{\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}})^\vee\|^2$ holds when Assumption 2 and 3 are satisfied. Then, $\alpha_1(\|e\|) \leq S \leq \alpha_2(\|e\|)$ holds from (28).

Next, we consider the time derivative of S (28). Applying the proposed input \boldsymbol{u} in (31) to (30) yields

$$\dot{S} = -\boldsymbol{v}^\top \boldsymbol{K}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})\boldsymbol{v} + \boldsymbol{e}^\top \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ce}})} \end{bmatrix} (\boldsymbol{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\check{\boldsymbol{g}}}_{wo})). \quad (49)$$

This is further bounded by *Cauchy-Schwarz-inequality* as

$$\dot{S} \leq -\boldsymbol{v}^\top \boldsymbol{K}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})\boldsymbol{v} + \|e\| \left\| \boldsymbol{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\check{\boldsymbol{g}}}_{wo}) \right\|, \quad (50)$$

where $\left\| \text{Ad}_{(e^{\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ce}})}\boldsymbol{e}_e \right\| = \|e\|$ holds in (50) since a rotation matrix does not change the norm of a vector. From *triangle inequality*, the second term in (50) is bounded as

$$\begin{aligned} \|e\| \left\| \boldsymbol{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\check{\boldsymbol{g}}}_{wo}) \right\| &\leq \\ \|e\| \left(\left\| \boldsymbol{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) \right\| + \left\| \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\check{\boldsymbol{g}}}_{wo}) \right\| \right). \quad (51) \end{aligned}$$

From *Peter-Paul inequality* and Lemma 3, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|e\| \left\| \boldsymbol{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) \right\| &\leq \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\gamma_1^2} \|e\|^2 + \frac{\gamma_1^2}{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) \right\|^2 \quad (52) \end{aligned}$$

$$\|e\| \left\| \boldsymbol{p}_{ee} \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2\gamma_2^2} \|e\|^2 + \frac{\gamma_2^2}{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{p}_{ee} \right\|^2 \quad (53)$$

$$\|e\| \cdot 2\pi \leq \frac{1}{2\gamma_3^2} \|e\|^2 + 2\pi^2\gamma_3^2 \quad (54)$$

with positive constants $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3 > 0$. Then, from Lemma 3 and inserting (51) to (54) into (50) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{S} &\leq -\boldsymbol{v}^\top \boldsymbol{K}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})\boldsymbol{v} + \frac{1}{2} \|e\|^2 \left(\frac{1}{\gamma_1^2} + \frac{L_p}{\gamma_2^2} + \frac{L_\theta}{\gamma_3^2} \right) \\ &+ \frac{\gamma_1^2}{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{V}_{wo}^b(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\check{\boldsymbol{g}}_{wo}) \right\|^2 + \frac{\gamma_2^2 L_p}{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{p}_{ee} \right\|^2 + 2\gamma_3^2 \pi^2 L_\theta \quad (55) \end{aligned}$$

and by refactoring the terms with Γ from (36), we obtain

$$\dot{S} \leq -e^\top \tilde{Q}(\Sigma)e + \frac{\gamma_1^2}{2} \left\| v_{wo}^b(\check{\xi}_{wo}) - \mu(\check{\xi}_{wo}) \right\|^2 + 2\gamma_3^2 \pi^2 L_\theta$$

$$\tilde{Q}(\Sigma) := \begin{bmatrix} K_c(\Sigma) + K_e(\Sigma) & -K_e(\Sigma) \text{Ad}_{(e^{\xi_{\theta_{ce}}})} \\ -\text{Ad}_{(e^{-\xi_{\theta_{ce}}})} K_e(\Sigma) & K_e(\Sigma) - \Gamma \end{bmatrix}.$$

From Lemma 4, $\tilde{Q}(\Sigma)$ is positive definite when $Q(\Sigma)$ is positive definite. Therefore, $\min_{\Sigma} \lambda_{\min}(\tilde{Q}(\Sigma)) = \lambda_Q$ also holds. From (15) in Lemma 1 and (17), the following holds with probability $\delta \in (0, 1)$:

$$\dot{S} \leq -\lambda_Q \|e\|^2 + \frac{\gamma_1^2}{2} \bar{\Delta}^2 + 2\gamma_3^2 \pi^2 L_\theta. \quad (56)$$

Thus, using a positive constant $\eta \in (0, 1)$ yields

$$\dot{S} \leq -\lambda_Q(1 - \eta) \|e\|^2 - \lambda_Q \eta \|e\|^2 + \frac{\gamma_1^2}{2} \bar{\Delta}^2 + 2\gamma_3^2 \pi^2 L_\theta. \quad (57)$$

Define

$$\zeta(\delta) := \sqrt{\frac{\gamma_1^2 \bar{\Delta}^2(\delta) + 4\gamma_3^2 \pi^2 L_\theta}{2\eta\lambda_Q}} \quad (58)$$

$$\bar{D}_e := \{e \in \mathbb{R}^{12} \mid |\theta_{ee}| \leq \pi/2, |\theta_{ce}| \leq \pi/2, \|e\| \geq \zeta\}, \quad (59)$$

then the following holds with probability δ :

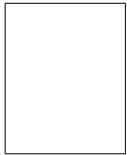
$$\mathcal{P}\{\dot{S} < 0, \forall e \in \bar{D}_e\} \geq \delta \quad (60)$$

Thus, from [22] it follows that the error e is ultimately bounded with probability, and the ultimate bound is derived as

$$\alpha^{-1}(\alpha_2(\zeta(\delta))) = \sqrt{2}\zeta(\delta) = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma_1^2 \bar{\Delta}^2(\delta) + 4\gamma_3^2 \pi^2 L_\theta}{\eta\lambda_Q}}. \quad (61)$$

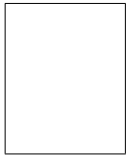
This completes the proof.

Marco OMAINSKA



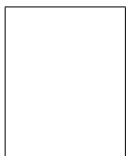
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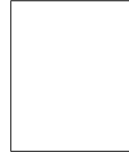
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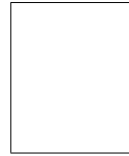
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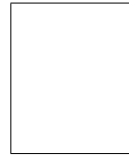
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