#### Contact-aided Invariant Extended Kalman Filtering for Legged Robot State Estimation

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# Why do we need legged robots?



Inspection

Search and rescue

# Pavement

) OLMO -

ROBUTICS

WWAA

### What states need to be estimated?

- position
- orientation
- velocity
- joint positions/velocities
- contact states



### What states need to be estimated?



#### Visual-inertial odometry?

encoders

contact sensors



# Failures of visual-inertial odometry

#### Vision may fail when ...

- Scarcity of features
  - ➢ snow, grass ...
- Poor lighting
  - ➢ sun glare, night …
- Obstructions
  - $\succ$  smoke, water on lens, ...
- Dynamic environments
- Motion blur





# Failures of visual-inertial odometry

Vision failure

Visual-inertial odometry Inertial odometry

Integration of IMU measurements alone leads to significant drift due to sensor noise and bias!



VectorNav-100 IMU

	Accelerometer				
	Bias Error	Horizontal Position Error [m]			
Grade	[mg]	<b>1</b> s	10s	60s	1hr
Navigation	0.025	0.13 mm	12 mm	0.44 m	1.6 km
Tactical	0.3	1.5 mm	150 mm	5.3 m	19 km
Industrial	3	15 mm	1.5 m	53 m	190 km
Automotive	125	620 mm	60 m	2.2 km	7900 km

https://www.vectornav.com/support/library/imu-and-ins



# Kinematic Odometry!

#### Odometry from **joint encoders** and **contact sensors**

- Contact *implies* that the stance foot remains fixed
- Forward kinematics is used to measure the foot position relative to the IMU
- Together these measurements can be used to estimate relative movement
- EKF to fuse with inertial data [Bloesch 2008]





# Dual-estimator approach



measurements including vision-based

loop closures (SLAM)

Invariant-EKF fusing **inertial**, **encoder**, **and contact measurements** (proprioceptive only)

# Types of Kalman Filters

Kalman Filter: optimal linear filter – state assumed to be a Gaussian random variable d

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{dt}}\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{A}_t\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{B}_t\mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{w}_t$$

(Direct) Extended Kalman Filter (EKF): linearize nonlinear state dynamics (filter states directly)

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{dt}}\mathbf{x}_t = f(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{w}_t) \qquad \mathbf{A}_t = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}_t}\Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\bar{\mathbf{x}}}$$

(Indirect or Error-State) EKF: linearize nonlinear error dynamics (filter error states)

$$\mathbf{e}_t \triangleq \mathbf{x}_t \boxminus \hat{\mathbf{x}}_t \qquad \qquad \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{dt}} \mathbf{e}_t = g(\mathbf{e}_t, \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{w}_t) \\ \approx \mathbf{A}_t(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t, \mathbf{u}_t) \ \mathbf{e}_t + \bar{\mathbf{w}}_t$$

In general, the linearization depends on the current state estimate. Bad estimate Incorrect linearization Poor performance



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### We can choose the error-state!

• (Indirect or Error-State) EKF: linearize nonlinear error dynamics (filter error states)

$$\mathbf{e}_t \triangleq \mathbf{x}_t \boxminus \hat{\mathbf{x}}_t \qquad \qquad \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{dt}} \mathbf{e}_t = g(\mathbf{e}_t, \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{w}_t) \\ \approx \mathbf{A}_t(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t, \mathbf{u}_t) \mathbf{e}_t + \bar{\mathbf{w}}_t$$

Different choices of error variables lead to different linearized error dynamics

e.g. Euler angle error vs. quaternion error



# Is there a choice of error variables that leads to autonomous dynamics?

(independent of the state estimate)

Yes! (group-affine systems)



Invariant Extended Kalman Filter [Barrau 2014]



# Lie Group Theory – Crash Course

- $\succ$  A **Lie group**,  $\mathcal{G}$ , is a group that is also a differentiable manifold.
  - Examples: SO(3), SE(3) are matrix Lie groups
- > The Lie algebra is defined as the tangent space at the identity element of the group  $\mathcal{T}_e \mathcal{G}$ 
  - This vector space is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^n$
- The group's **exponential map**,  $exp : \mathcal{T}_e \mathcal{G} \to \mathcal{G}$ , maps a vector in the Lie algebra to the Lie group
  - Inverse is the logarithm map,  $\log:\mathcal{G}\to\mathcal{T}_e\mathcal{G}$

"hat operator"  $(\cdot)^\wedge: \mathbb{R}^n o \mathcal{T}_e \mathcal{G}$ 

Vectorized notation:  $\operatorname{Exp}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \triangleq \exp(\boldsymbol{\xi}^{\wedge})$  $\operatorname{Log}(\operatorname{Exp}(\boldsymbol{\xi})) = \boldsymbol{\xi}$ 





### Invariant Kalman Filtering

- System defined on a matrix Lie group:  $\mathbf{X}_t \in \mathcal{G}$  SO(3), SE(3), etc.
- Dynamics satisfy "group affine" property:  $f_{u_t}(\mathbf{X}_1\mathbf{X}_2) = f_{u_t}(\mathbf{X}_1)\mathbf{X}_2 + \mathbf{X}_1f_{u_t}(\mathbf{X}_2) \mathbf{X}_1f_{u_t}(\mathbf{I}_d)\mathbf{X}_2$

With "group affine" systems, a particular choice of error variables will lead to log-linear error dynamics.

• Error is defined through matrix multiplication:

 $\boldsymbol{\eta}_t^r = \bar{\mathbf{X}}_t \mathbf{X}_t^{-1} \quad \text{(Right-Invariant Error)}$  $\boldsymbol{\eta}_t^l = \mathbf{X}_t^{-1} \bar{\mathbf{X}}_t \quad \text{(Left-Invariant Error)}$  $\boldsymbol{\nabla} \quad \boldsymbol{\nabla} \quad \boldsymbol{\nabla}$ True State Estimate

Error is invariant to (right or left) actions of the group  $(\mathbf{L}\mathbf{X}_t)^{-1} \mathbf{L}\bar{\mathbf{X}}_t = \mathbf{X}_t^{-1} \mathbf{L}^{-1} \mathbf{L}\bar{\mathbf{X}}_t = \mathbf{X}_t^{-1} \bar{\mathbf{X}}_t$ 



Log-Linear Error Dynamics



$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\boldsymbol{\xi}_t = \mathbf{A}_t\boldsymbol{\xi}_t$$

The nonlinear error dynamics is **exactly** determined by a linear system in the Lie algebra!!!

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\boldsymbol{\eta}_t = g_{u_t}(\boldsymbol{\eta}_t)$$



[Barrau and Bonnabel 2017]

#### **Invariant Observations**

 $\mathbf{Y}_t = \mathbf{X}_t^{-1}\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{V}_t \quad \text{(Right Invariant Observation)}$  $\mathbf{Y}_t = \mathbf{X}_t\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{V}_t \quad \text{(Left Invariant Observation)}$ 

measurement = state \* constant + noise





[Barrau and Bonnabel 2017]

Autonomous innovation equations!

# Contact-Aided Invariant EKF

#### Propagation

- Use **IMU** measurements to predict base frame movement.
- Use **contact** sensor measurement to predict supporting feet movement (zero translation).

#### Correction

• Use encoder measurements and **forward kinematics** to correct state estimate.





# States and Inputs

• The state is expressed as a matrix Lie group,  $\mathbf{X}_t \in SE_K(3)$ 





### Inertial-Contact Dynamics Model

$$D(q)\ddot{q} + C(q,\dot{q})\dot{q} + C(q) = Bu + J^T(q)F$$

The "strapdown" inertial-contact model circumvents using the full dynamics

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathbf{R}}_{t} &= \mathbf{R}_{t} \left( \tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_{t} - \mathbf{w}_{t}^{g} \right)_{\times} \\ \dot{\mathbf{v}}_{t} &= \mathbf{R}_{t} \left( \tilde{\mathbf{a}}_{t} - \mathbf{w}_{t}^{a} \right) + \mathbf{g} \\ \dot{\mathbf{p}}_{t} &= \mathbf{v}_{t} \\ \dot{\mathbf{d}}_{t} &= \mathbf{R}_{t} \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{BC}} (\tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}_{t}) \left( -\mathbf{w}_{t}^{v} \right) \end{aligned}$$

with respect to body frame

Do we have to use to robot's complicated dynamics?

No!



### Inertial-Contact Dynamics Model

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with respect to body frame

Written in matrix form:



# Log-Linear Error Dynamics

(Right Invariant Error)  $\boldsymbol{\eta}_t^r \triangleq \bar{\mathbf{X}}_t \mathbf{X}_t^{-1} = \operatorname{Exp}(\boldsymbol{\xi}_t)$   $\mathbf{A}_t = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ (\mathbf{g})_{\times} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$   $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \boldsymbol{\xi}_t = \mathbf{A}_t \boldsymbol{\xi}_t + \operatorname{Ad}_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}_t} \mathbf{w}_t$ 

Linearized error dynamics matrix is independent of the state estimate!

(Left Invariant Error)  

$$\eta_t^l \triangleq \mathbf{X}_t^{-1} \bar{\mathbf{X}}_t = \operatorname{Exp}(\boldsymbol{\xi}_t)$$

$$\mathbf{A}_t = \begin{bmatrix} -(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_t)_{\times} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ -(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}_t)_{\times} & -(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_t)_{\times} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} & -(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_t)_{\times} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & -(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_t)_{\times} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \boldsymbol{\xi}_t = \mathbf{A}_t \boldsymbol{\xi}_t + \mathbf{w}_t$$



### Forward Kinematic Position Measurements

Using forward kinematics, we can measure the position of the contact frame relative to the base (IMU) frame:

$${}_{\mathrm{B}}\mathbf{p}_{\mathrm{BC}}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}_t) \approx \mathbf{R}_t^{\mathsf{T}}(\mathbf{d}_t - \mathbf{p}_t) + {}_{\mathrm{B}}\mathbf{J}_{\mathrm{BC}}^{\dot{p}}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}_t)\mathbf{w}_t^{\alpha}$$

Written in matrix form:

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}\mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{BC}}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}_{t}) \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{Y}_{t}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{t}^{\mathsf{T}} & -\mathbf{R}_{t}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{v}_{t} & -\mathbf{R}_{t}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{p}_{t} & -\mathbf{R}_{t}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{d}_{t} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{Y}_{t}} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0}_{3\times1} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}\mathbf{J}_{\mathrm{BC}}^{\dot{\boldsymbol{\mu}}}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}_{t})\mathbf{w}_{t}^{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{V}_{t}} \\ \underbrace{\mathbf{X}_{t}^{-1}}_{\mathbf{V}_{t}} = \underbrace{\mathbf{V}_{t}}_{\mathbf{V}_{t}} \\ \underbrace{\mathbf{Linearized observation matrix is some structure!}}_{\mathbf{D}_{t}} \\ \mathbf{H}_{t} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix}$$









# **Observability** Analysis

Discrete time state transition matrix:

$$\Phi = \exp_m(\mathbf{A}_t \Delta t) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ (\mathbf{g})_{\times} \Delta t & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{g})_{\times} \Delta t^2 & \mathbf{I} \Delta t & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix}$$

Observability matrix can be computed as:

$$\mathcal{O} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{H} \\ \mathbf{H} \mathbf{\Phi} \\ \mathbf{H} \mathbf{\Phi}^2 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{I} \\ -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{g})_{\times} \Delta t^2 & -\mathbf{I} \Delta t & -\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{I} \\ -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{g})_{\times} \Delta t^2 & -\mathbf{I} \Delta t^2 & -\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{I} \\ -2 (\mathbf{g})_{\times} \Delta t^2 & -2\mathbf{I} \Delta t^2 & -\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{I} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

• Absolute position and yaw are unobservable (drift will occur)

 Remaining states have local stability about any trajectory!



#### Simulation Results



We ran 100 simulations using the same measurements and noise statistics, while randomly initializing the orientation and velocity estimates.



# Covariance Propagation

Robot walks forward with initial yaw uncertainty





# Walking with Unknown Initial Yaw

- Robot walking in a straight line with completely uncertain initial yaw.
- Yaw is unobservable along with absolute position







# Incorporating IMU Bias

Unfortunately, no known way to incorporate IMU bias into the Lie group while maintaining the "group affine" property

[Barrau 2015]

#### "Imperfect" Invariant EKF

State and errors become tuples:



#### New linearized dynamics and noise matrices:

$$\mathbf{A}_{t} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ (\mathbf{g})_{\times} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -\bar{\mathbf{R}}_{t} & \mathbf{0} \\ -(\bar{\mathbf{v}})_{\times} \bar{\mathbf{R}}_{t} & \mathbf{0} \\ -(\bar{\mathbf{q}}_{t})_{\times} \bar{\mathbf{R}}_{t} & \mathbf{0} \\ -(\bar{\mathbf{d}}_{t})_{\times} \bar{\mathbf{R}}_{t} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \\ \bar{\mathbf{Q}}_{t} = \begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{Ad}_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{t}} & \mathbf{0}_{12,6} \\ \mathbf{0}_{6,12} & \mathbf{I}_{6} \end{bmatrix} \operatorname{Cov}(\mathbf{w}_{t}) \begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{Ad}_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{t}} & \mathbf{0}_{12,6} \\ \mathbf{0}_{6,12} & \mathbf{I}_{6} \end{bmatrix}^{\mathsf{T}}$$



#### **Experimental Results**



We ran the filters 100 times using the same measurements (from a walking experiment) and noise statistics, while randomly initializing the orientation and velocity estimates.



# Motion Capture Experiment





# Motion Capture Experiment



# Motion Capture Experiment







#### New Torso and Perception System

- Velodyne 32 beam LiDAR (10 Hz)
- Ouster 64 beam LiDAR+IMU (10 Hz)
- Two Intel RealSense depth cameras (30 Hz)
- VectorNav-100 IMU (800 Hz, in pelvis)
- Nvidia Jetson TX2 GPU
- Router, switch, power supply

#### **Challenges:** calibration, synchronization, data collection



### LiDAR Motion Compensation using InEKF

We use the high-frequency odometry from the InEKF to correct for Cassie's movement within single LiDAR scans.



#### without motion compensation

with motion compensation







# InEKF SLAM with Landmarks





#### Additional Types of Invariant Measurements

Landmark Measurement (right invariant)

➢ GPS Measurement (left invariant)

[Barczyk 2011] [Barrau 2015]

[Zhang 2017]

Magnetometer Measurement (right invariant)

[Barczyk 2011] [Barrau 2015]

> Position, Velocity, or Pose Measurement (right or left invariant)

Open source C++ library (<u>https://github.com/RossHartley/invariant-ekf</u>)

Extendable to many aided-inertial navigation systems (wheeled or flying robots!)





The pose of the robot is estimated from Invariant EKF odometry in the IMU frame

### Extends to Factors Graphs





[Hartley et al. IROS 2018]

#### Visual-Inertial-Contact Factor Graph





[Hartley et al. IROS 2018]





### Thank you!







