

Elite Localization System For Railways Using Global Navigation Satellite System

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Abstract

Keywords

GPS(GNSS) receiver,
Digital track map,
zigbee pair ,
ultrasonic sensor,
PIR sensor

This paper deals with an algorithm that enables a railway vehicle to determine its position in a track network and prevents train collision .The system is based solely on onboard sensors such as a ultrasonic sensor and a global navigation satellite system (GNSS or GPS) sensor. It does not require trackside infrastructure such as axle counters or balises. we hereby describe to solve ambiguities and in searching of alternative track path in case of disturbance or detection of object or train. The major development in the field of wireless communication has revolutionized the railway network to replace the track infrastructure elements by this economic GPS tracking. All components of a train protection system including an onboard localization system have to be safe and reliable.

I. Introduction

To develop new train protection systems that requires less trackside infrastructure. The development of wireless communication devices has paved the way for this idea and allows railway companies to replace balise-based communication between the train and the interlocking by cheaper wireless techniques. An onboard train localization system that is independent of trackside infrastructure would overcome these limitations. Train protection systems are safety-relevant components since a failure of a train protection system might lead to fatal accidents. Therefore, all components of a train protection system including an onboard localization system have to be safe and reliable. Onboard train localization systems have been investigated considering different aspects and different sensor configurations. The combination of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS),

Ultrasonic Sensor the Focus of these approaches was to determine the longitudinal position of a train along a certain track.

This project describes an algorithm that enables a railway vehicle to determine its position in a track network. The system is based solely on onboard sensors such as a Ultrasonic sensor and a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS or GPS) sensor and does not require trackside infrastructure such as axle counters or balises. The project derives a probabilistic modeling of the localization task and develops a sensor fusion approach to fuse the inputs of the GNSS sensor and the Ultrasonic sensor with the digital track map. We describe how we can treat ambiguities and stochastic uncertainty adequately. This project focuses on an accurate modeling of sensor and estimation uncertainties, which is relevant for safety critical applications.

II. Project description

The block diagram consists of two sections. One is train section and another one is control section. The train section Fig(a) consists of the PIC (Peripheral Interface Controller) micro controller. This is the 40 pin IC whose specification is 16F877A. here 16 refers

to the series number and F indicates that the controller uses flash memory and A indicates the advanced version. The time taken to execute one instruction is 50 nsec and the frequency range is 20 MHZ. Therefore one lakh instructions can be executed for every second. It consists of 35 instruction set.

Block diagram

Train section:

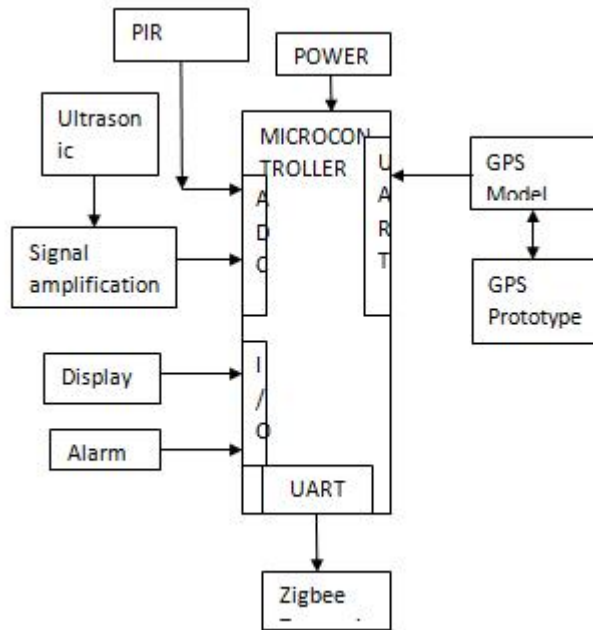


Fig 1 (b) Block diagram of control section

In 40 pins, the 33pins are used as digital input output ports. Among 33 pins 8 pins can be used as analog or digital port. The input output ports are represented as port a, port B, port C, port D and port E. The controller consists of 3 timers T0, T1 and T2. generally T0 and T2 are 8 bit timers. But T1 is the 16 bit timer. The functions performed are capture, compare and PWM. It consists of a UART port in which Zigbee is connected. It uses EEPROM memory which is 10 lakh time erasable. The main advantage is that it uses in-circuit serial programming. This provides the changes for program in hardware after implementation. It uses two memories such as flash program memory (8 Kbytes) and data memory (368bytes). One external interrupt is present which is known as hardware interrupt.

PIR

The PIR (passive infra -red) sensor is a pyroelectric device that detects motion by measuring changes in the infrared levels emitted by surrounding objects. This motion can be detected by checking for a high signal on a single I/O pin. It is a 3 pin sensor in which 1st pin connected to ground second pin for output and third pin for power supply. The sensitivity for the PIR sensor has the range of approximately 5 meters. It can sense objects up to 120° within 1 meter range. The sensitivity can vary with environmental conditions. Here we are using this sensor for person detection along with the ultrasonic sensor.

Ultrasonic sensor

Ultrasonic sensor ranging module HC-SR04 provides 2cm-400cm non contact measurement function, the ranging accuracy can reach to 3mm. the modules includes ultrasonic transmitters, receiver and control circuit. It is a 4 pin sensor in which 1st for power supply, 2nd is trigger, 3rd is echo and 4th is ground. Here the ultrasonic sensor is used for obstacles detection in order to avoid collision. Since the output of Ultrasonic sensor is a weak signal, signal amplification and condition circuit is used to strengthen the signal. The two sensor modules are connected to the ADC (analog to digital converter) port of the microcontroller.

LCD

LCD 2X16 is a module provides versatile display functions. Through its simple connections, it can be controlled by BASIC commander for a wide range of LCD application. In this module, two display line, each with 16 characters on each line can be displayed. By using the cursor control command, the position of the character to be displayed on the screen can be arbitrarily changed .Here LCD display is used to give alert message to the driver when the obstacle is detected.

ZIGBEE

Zigbee is used to transmit the information about the exact location of the train between source and destination. Since the transmission distance for zigbee is 100 meter only , so it is used as a zigbee pairs. Every zigbee is used as the nodes. So the Information is transferred from one node to another. Here it is used to transmit and receive the signal at the same time so it is denoted as zigbee transceiver. The main objective of the project is to obtain the exact location of the train. This can be achieved by using GPS (Global Positioning System). The output of the GPS gives the longitude and latitude values for the position of the train. This can be compared with the digital track map in order to obtain the exact location. the coverage area for the satellite is very large. So the information obtain from the satellite is similar values for wider distance. So the information about the particular location cannot be obtained. In order to obtain such details we are using GPS as a GPS prototype switch.

MAX232

MAX232 is a 16 pin IC. It is used for speed conversion the input from the GPS is to be compared with the digital track map. This can be achieved by interfacing the microcontroller with the MATLAB. In order to interface the hardware and software MAX232 is used. The baud for the PIC microcontroller is 9600 and the baud rate for the system is 38400.since the baud rate is different for two devices MAX232 provides the speed limit and make the interface between the hardware and software.

UART

UART is a micro chip with programming that controls a computer's interface to its attached serial devices. It is a serial communication interface which uses two lines for sending and receiving the data.

Control section

The control section Fig(b) consists of the zigbee transceiver and track map algorithm. The digital track map consists of all possible paths from source to destination. The algorithm used here is the hop along algorithm. The distance between the source and the destination is very large. So it is very difficult for analyzing the obstacles. Therefore we are considering the whole distance as several hops. The individual hops are considered and analyzed for obstacle detection. The track path along with the obstacle is detected it is used to obtain the alternative path. These possible paths can also be analyzed to obtain the shortest path to reach the destination.

III. Result and Discussion

The simulated result of the GPS receiver and the digital track map gives us the exact localization of the train. The onboard sensors help us to detect the obstacles on the track and the components preset in the control section helps us in finding the nearest alternative track. This thus avoids collision. Simulated result of the GPS Positioning system is given in Fig.2 (a).This Fig. describes the latitude(X axis) and longitude(Y axis) position of the train using GPS tracker. This tracking is done using the variation in angles which ultimately varies the position thus helping in find the exact location. Each angle change is recorded by the GPS for analysis of exact location. The distance travelled by the train can be determined using cost function with respect to change in angle.

The initial vehicle position to its destination is plotted in the graph along with the obstacles in Fig.2(b). This Fig. is plotted to explain the source and destination point of the train and the various obstacles in its path while reaching destination.

The probabilistic detection of obstacles in a 3D view is considered in Fig.2(c). This Fig.2(c) consists of peaks

which gives the distance of the obstacles in probability basis. This consists of taking latitude longitude and the probability value of the obstacle in the path. The probability range is started for the source point to a point before destination to find various such disturbances in the path assigned to reach the destination.

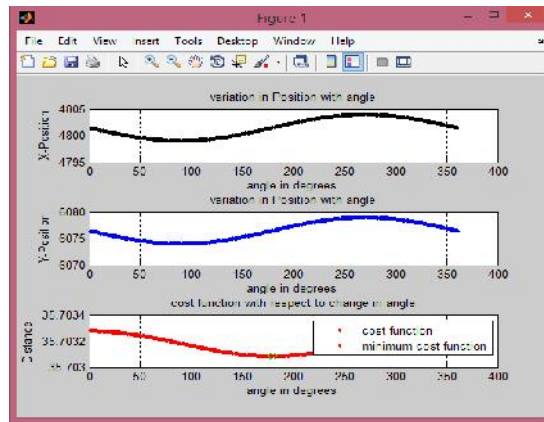


Fig 2 (a) Variation in Position with angle

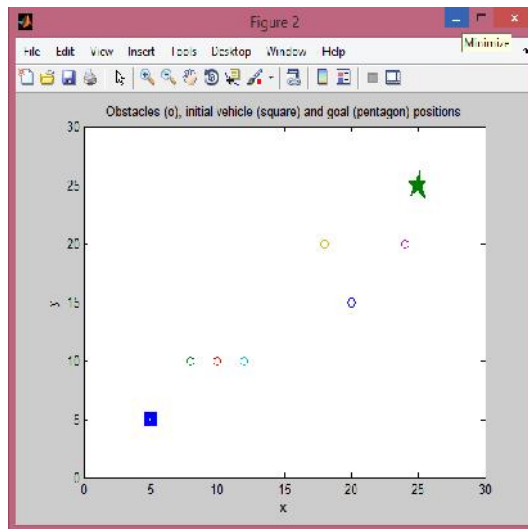


Fig 2 (b) Obstacles (o), initial vehicle (square) and goal (pentagon) positions

The detection of the obstacle in the path must be done with great care, such that there is much time and space for the train in finding alternative path or reducing the speed in case of obstacle detected using the ultrasonic and PIR sensors. Thus Fig. 2(d) gives the strength of the signal of the obstacle using color map which helps in differentiating the far objects from the near one. The color ranges from blue to red i.e. from far to near,

which signifies the situation of adapting to alternative path. Fig.2 (e) Goal Function. This fig. is all about consideration of a source point and a destination. As said in fig.2(c) the probability range is calculated only to a point before destination from source. The fig.2(e) gives the overall function of the path from source to destination which comprises of 3 dimensional components such as latitude ,longitude and distance.

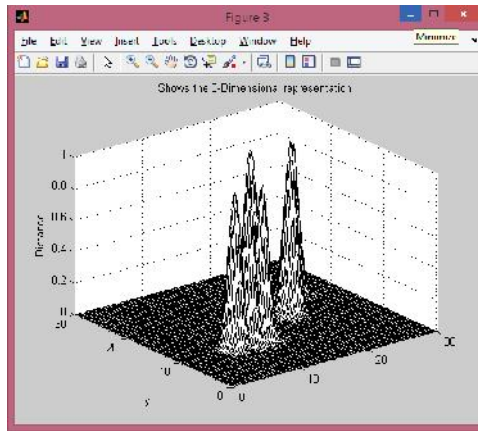


Fig 2 (c) Shows the 3-Dimensional representation

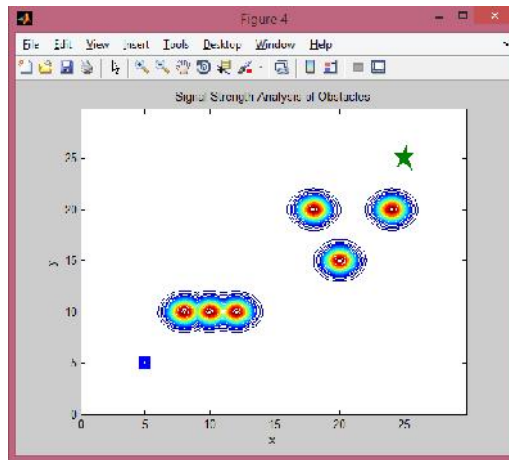


Fig 2(d) Signal Strength Analysis of Obstacles

As said before in case of detection of obstacle there is need in determining alternative path which is achieved using on hop estimation. The one hop estimation of alternative track is given in Fig.2 (f). When any fault is detected on the current path it is indicated using the alarm, then by using the GPS tracker the nearest alternative path can be determined. Even in the alternative path again if some disturbances are present another path can be chosen without much effort.

In the fig.2(f) gives the number of alternative paths available and the possible switch over's. The Fig. 2(d) describes the signal strength of obstacles, thus the combination of hop along estimation with the detection of signal strength of the obstacles is given in Fig. 2(g). This merging of the two results helps us in finding the exact alternative path to reach the destination without any collision.

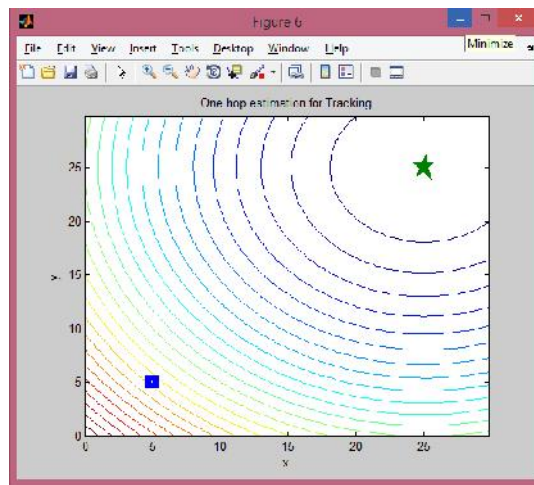
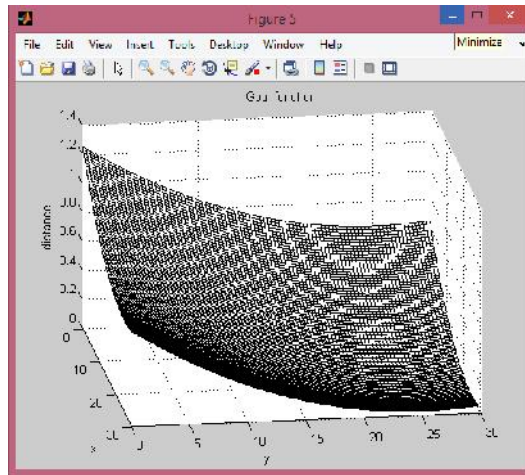


Fig 2(f) One hop estimation for Tracking

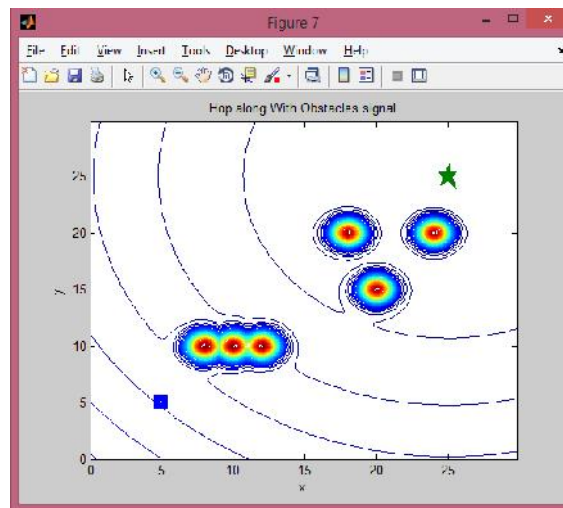


Fig2(g) Hop along With Obstacles signal

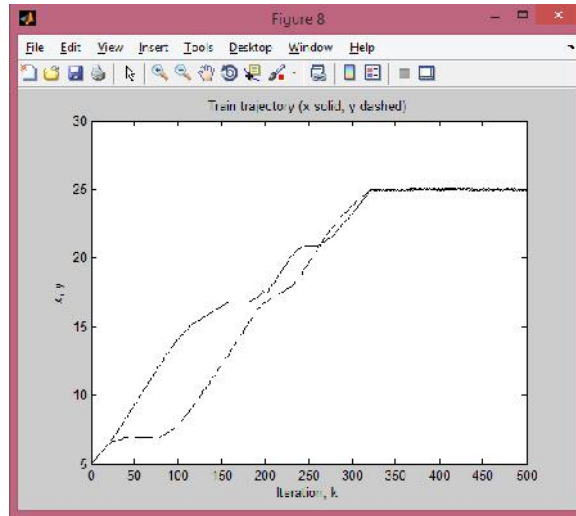


Fig 2(h) Train trajectory (x solid, y dashed)

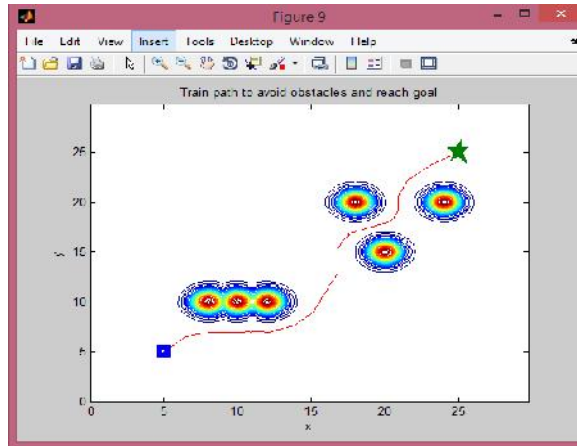


Fig 2(i) Train path to avoid obstacles and reach goal

Fig.2(h) is the ultimate result of the fig.2(g), which clearly describes the alternative paths established by the train by eliminating the path with obstacle, and choosing the path which is near possible and will reach the destination at ease Fig.2(i). Shows how well the alternative path is selected from such that the train reaches the destination without any collision.

IV. Conclusion


This paper provides us with a detailed extraction of exact localization of train using GPS receiver. It also enhances the security system with the use of onboard sensors. In this paper we have localized the train simply by using GPS instead of separate large and costly equipments which can possess uncertainties. We have established a trackside infrastructure less technique which eliminates the various ambiguities. The use of onboard sensors such as ultrasonic along

with PIR sensor helps to differentiate the humans or animals from objects. This reduces collision with objects and person and also possesses the ability to estimates the best and nearest alternative path to reach the destination.

The use of Zigbee transceiver helps us to provide the exact path of the various trains to its nearest station control room which can reduce the train collision by avoiding the selection of same path by two trains simultaneously. As the speed and amount of information transfer can take place in better way using Zigbee pair, it helps to reduce the time wasted in crossings as the speed and the arrival time of the train will be automatically calculated. Due to the use of onboard sensors and wireless technologies the cost of implementation and maintenance is low cost and can be implemented in under-developed and developing countries.

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