

MATLAB EXPO

MATLAB과 PX4를 활용한 드론 비행제어 소프트웨어 개발
Development of drone flight control software using MATLAB and PX4

문정호 교수, 청주대학교 무인항공기학과



• Introduction

- Autonomous System Research Group(ASRG)
- Research goal & problem
- PX4 open-source flight control software
- uORB message
- UAV Toolbox & PX4 Support package

• CLAW Software development

- Simulink project & model architecture
- Attitude/Position controller
- CLAW additional logics
- Simulation model
- Flight test result

• Conclusion & Future work

Autonomous systems from ground to space based on aerospace engineering

- Flight dynamics modeling and control law of UAV, UAM/AAM, SLV
- Robot operating system based robotic embedded systems & simulation
- AI-based image processing, decision making and estimation (inc. SLAM)
- System design & flight test of fixed-wing, rotary-wing, and VTOL air vehicles

Speciality of research team

1st Controls for autonomous aircraft

2nd Machine learning for aerospace

3rd Convergence of robotics & aerospace engineering



Prof. Jung-Ho Moon

Ph.D in aerospace engineering
 Department of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

- Flight dynamics & simulation
 - Flight control law design
 - Collision avoidance
 - UAV system design & flight test
- Chief GNC engineer in Koreanair('05~19)



Prof. Sungwook Cho

Ph.D in aerospace engineering
 Department of Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering

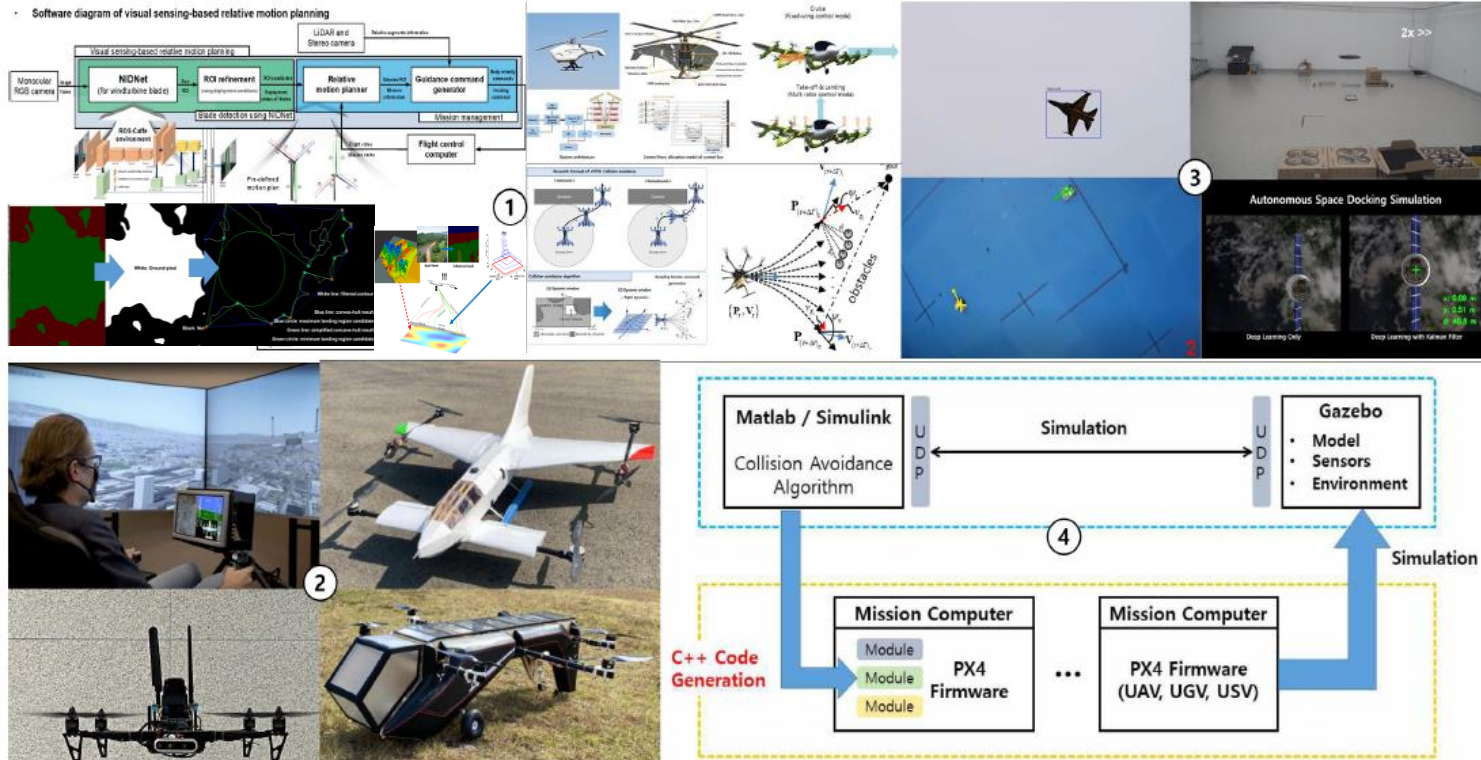
- Heterogenous sensor fusion
 - Learning-based target recognition and state estimation
 - Edge device development for UAVs
 - ROS-based unmanned system design
- Senior engineer in Nearthlab('17~19)



Prof. Sang-Hyeon Kim

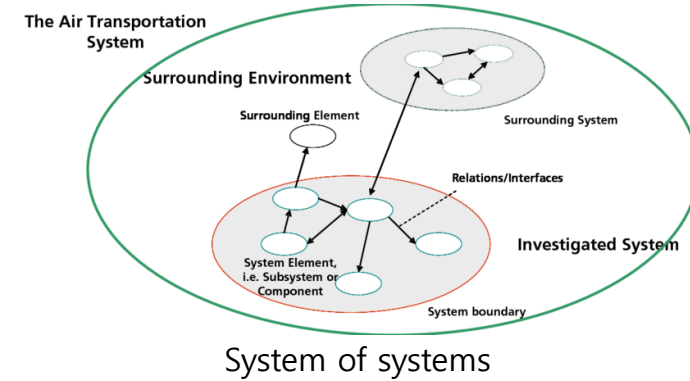
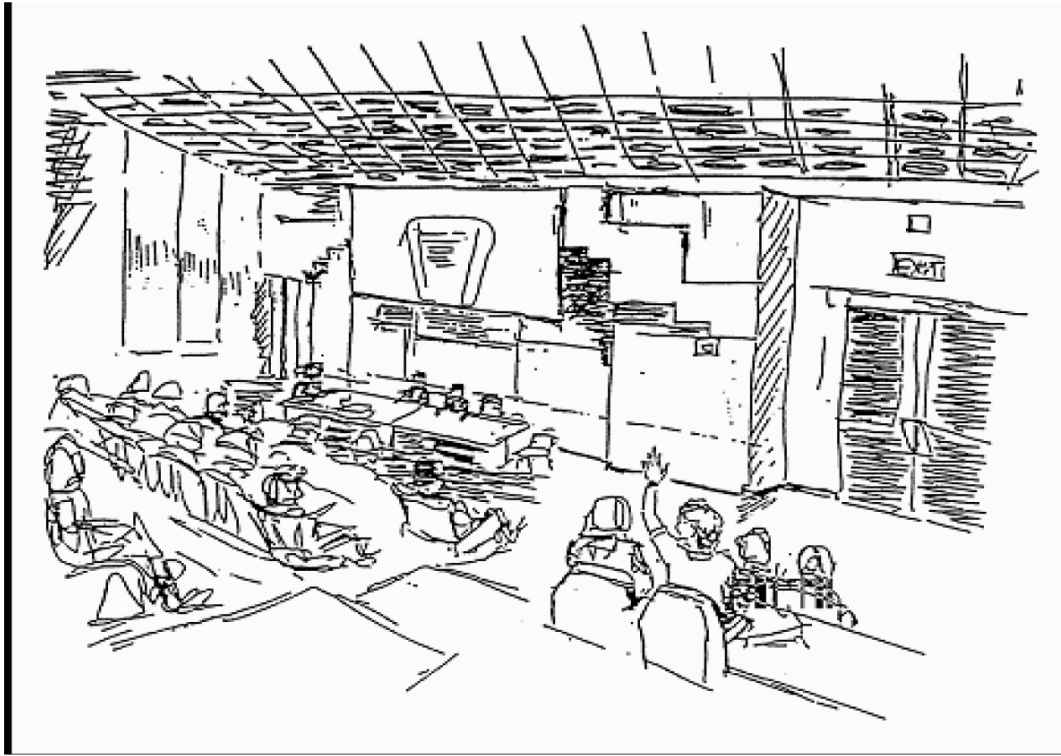
Ph.D in aerospace engineering
 Department of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

- Intelligent robotics
 - AI based vision system for robot
 - S/W for UAV/UAM system
 - Intelligent smart factory system
- Senior engineer in Samsung Electronics Co.,Ltd('18~20)



Why does ASRG emphasize aerospace engineering?

- RTCA, DO-178B Software consideration in airborne systems and equipment certification
 - Modeling & Simulation, Design Optimization, Human factors, Airworthiness certification



B737MAX accidents in 2019

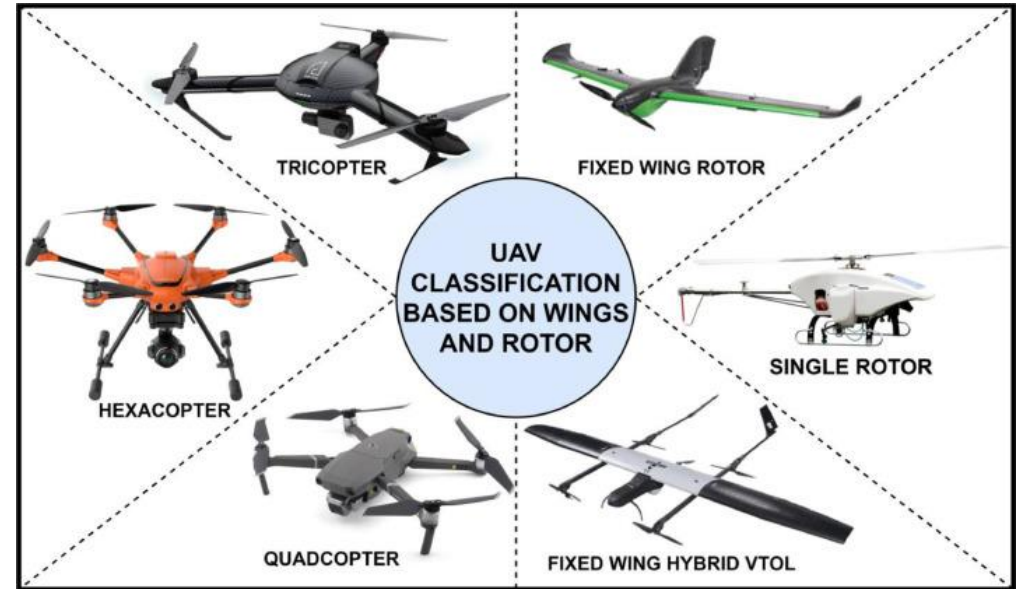
Consensus n. Collective opinion or concord; general agreement or accord. [Latin, from *consentire*, to agree]

UAS(Unmanned Aircraft Systems) -International

- UAS are air vehicles and associated equipment that do not carry a human operator, but instead are remotely piloted or fly autonomously. UAS commonly are referred to as Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) and drones.
- A UAS generally consists of
 - 1) an aircraft with no pilot on board,
 - 2) a remote pilot station,
 - 3) a command and control link
 - 4) a payload specific to the intended application/operation

Drone

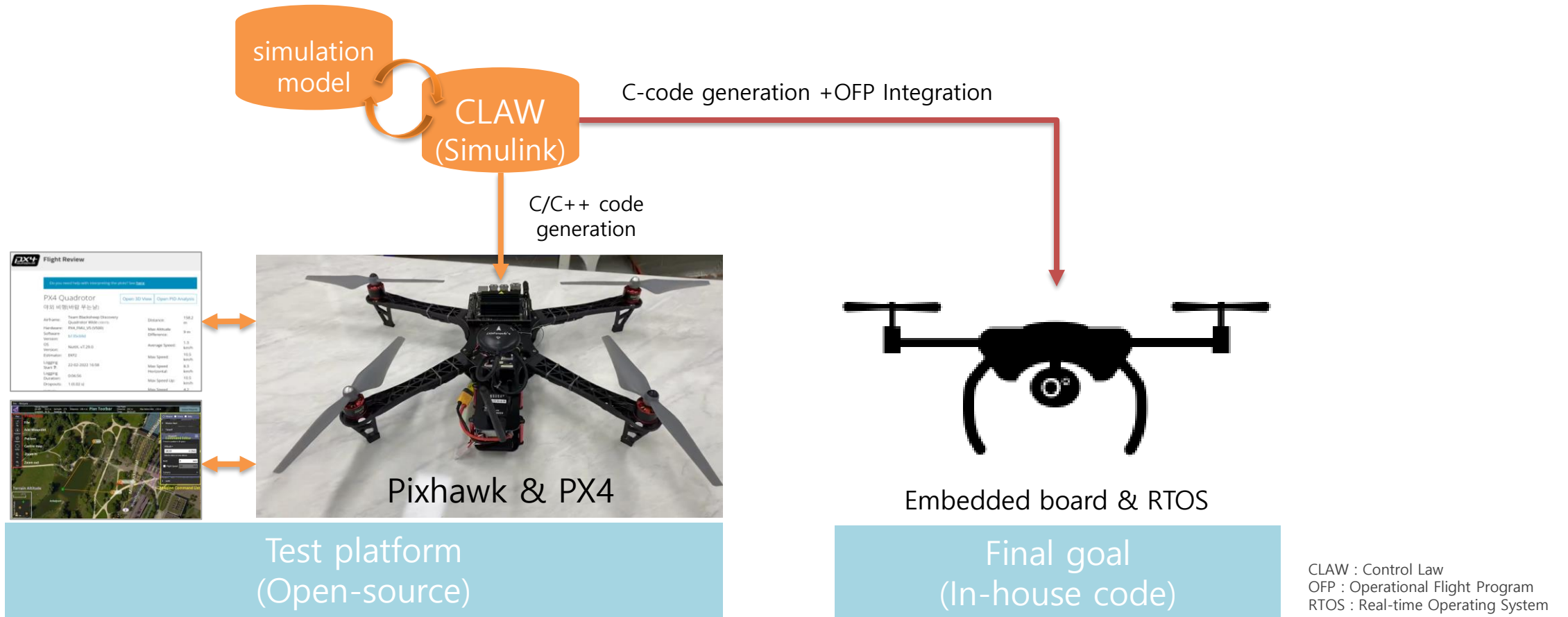
- An aircraft without a pilot that is controlled by someone on the ground, used especially as a hobby
- A low, continuous noise
- In this presentation, drone refer only to [multi-copter type UAS](#)



AAM(Advanced Air Mobility)

- AAM is an [air transport system](#) concept that integrates new, transformational aircraft designs and flight technologies into existing and modified airspace operations. - NASA
- Urban Air Mobility(UAM) envisions a safe and efficient aviation transportation system that will use [highly automated aircraft](#) that will operate and transport passengers or cargo at lower altitudes within urban and suburban areas. - FAA

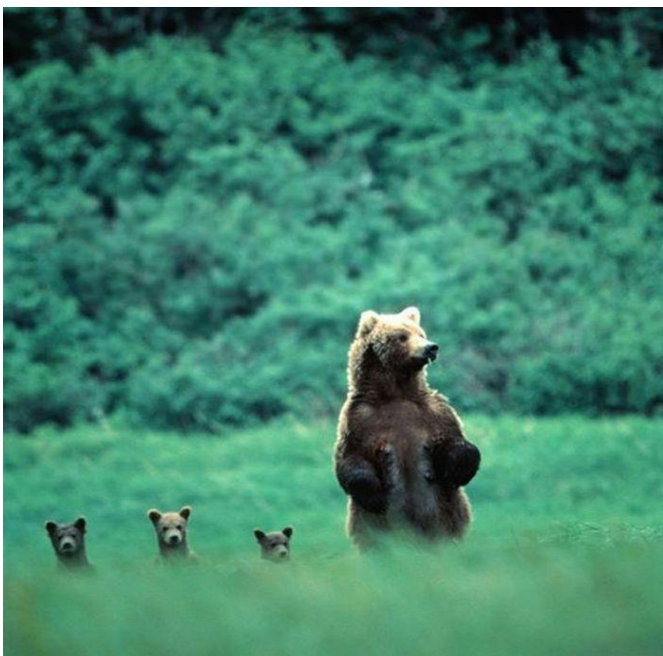
- Development of a flyable flight control software for drone(multi-copter) using Model Based Development tools



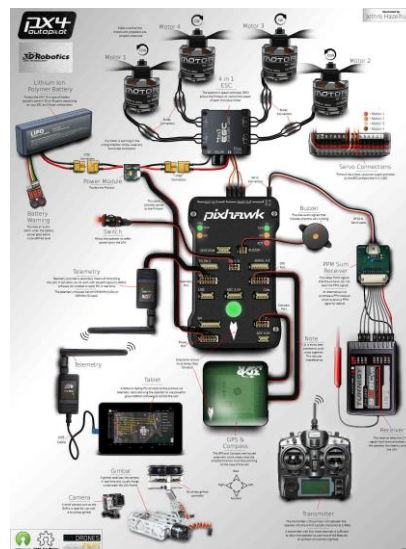
Problem of UAV control engineer

- Different development environment between flight control engineer & software engineer
 - Aerospace engineers are NOT familiar with Linux and code developing environment, but interested in the control algorithm & logics
- Embedded source code(C/C++) is dependent with hardwares(DSP, MPC,FPGA,...)
- The development period is getting shorter; Customers don't wait until next week(Share it now through YouTube)
 - Many drone open-source communities and resources that have emerged recently
 - Pixhawk, PX4, Ardupilot, QGCS, UGCS, MAVlink, FlightReview, Gazebo, Airsim(Unreal Engine) and ROS

Aerospace Engineer



Pixhawk (Open-source drone platform)



Software Engineer



Purpose & approach

• Purpose

- Development of in-house **Control Law(CLAW)** for multi-copter independent of hardware & operating system
 - CLAW with good performance & handling quality compatible with DJI drone
 - Efficient software development & testing environments using open-source & commercial tools
 - Software verification & code quality level(C/C++ code)
 - Software configuration management and expandability
 - Convenient on-board system testing with UAV/Drone



"CLAW to compete with DJI Mavic 2"

• Project Approach

- Model-Based Development(MBD) using auto C/C++ code generation
- CLAW model verification using Model advisor, dynamic model
- CLAW Project management with Simulink Project
- Visualization with commercial tools(X-Plane, Gazebo,...)
- Pixhawk open-hardware testing with PX4 support package



Ref.1



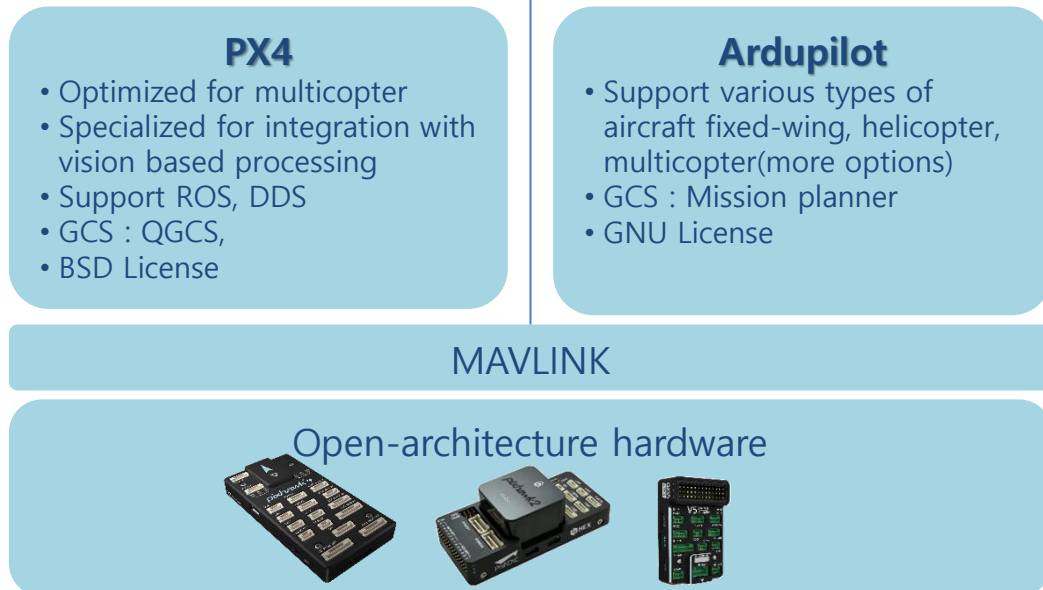
Ref.2

[Model-Based Development applications for UAV]

Ref.1 J.H.Moon, S.H.Oh, J.K.Kim, and I.J .Chung, Development of the synchropter control law using the open-source platform and the model-based-design software, Proceeding of the 2020 KSAS Spring Conference, 2020, pp.535-536.
 Ref.2 Korean Air Speeds UAV Flight Control Software Development ..., https://kr.mathworks.com/company/user_stories/korean-air-speeds-uav-flight-control-software-development-and-verification-with-model-based-design.html

Drone open-source environment

- **Hardware : Pixhawk open-architecture flight control board**
- **Software : Open-source autopilot system oriented toward inexpensive autonomous aircraft**
 - Ardupilot : Arduino based open-source autopilot (It supports various types of aircraft)
 - PX4 : Software oriented open-source autopilot (It supports various middleware such as ROS, DDS, etc)
 - Project started in 2009, Initial release 2012
 - Further developed and used at Computer Vision & Geometry Lab of ETH
 - Supported by Autonomous Systems Lab and Automatic Control Lab
 - Language : C++
 - Operating System : NuttX, ROS
 - License : BSD



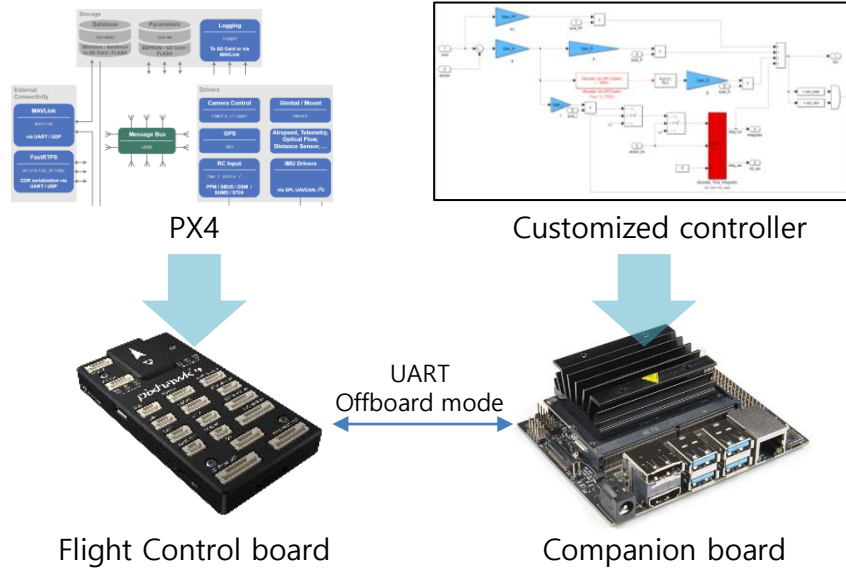
Companion board(nVidia Jetson)

Advantage

- Expandability with other software
- Easy to integrate with vision processing

Disadvantage

- Weight & power consumption
- Required Linux development environment
- Engineer should integrate code with Ubuntu
- Limited to access low-level controller



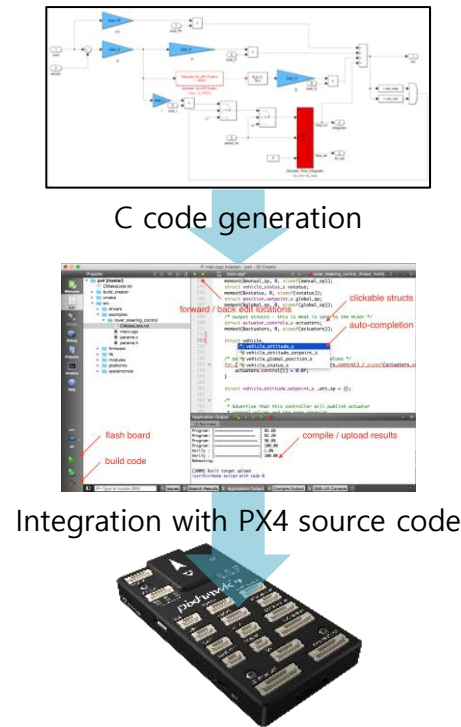
C/C++ Code level integration with PX4

Advantage

- Fully support customized interface
- Easy to use existing PX4 module
- Easy to update PX4 firmware

Disadvantage

- Require more steps to make firmware
- Engineer should know PX4 code related with task
- PX4 code change according to the Simulink model



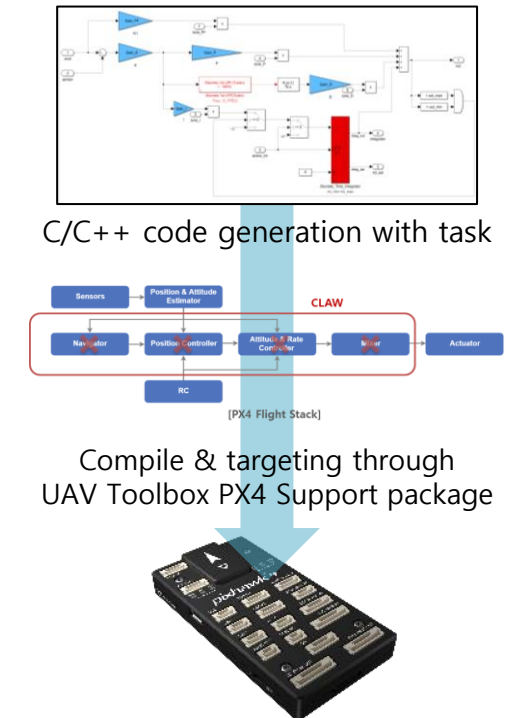
PX4 Support package

Advantage

- Easy to make firmware (One click)
- Does not required additional C/C++ code

Disadvantage

- Limited access to variables of PX4
- Limited firmware version(v1.10.2 only)
- Limited hardware supports



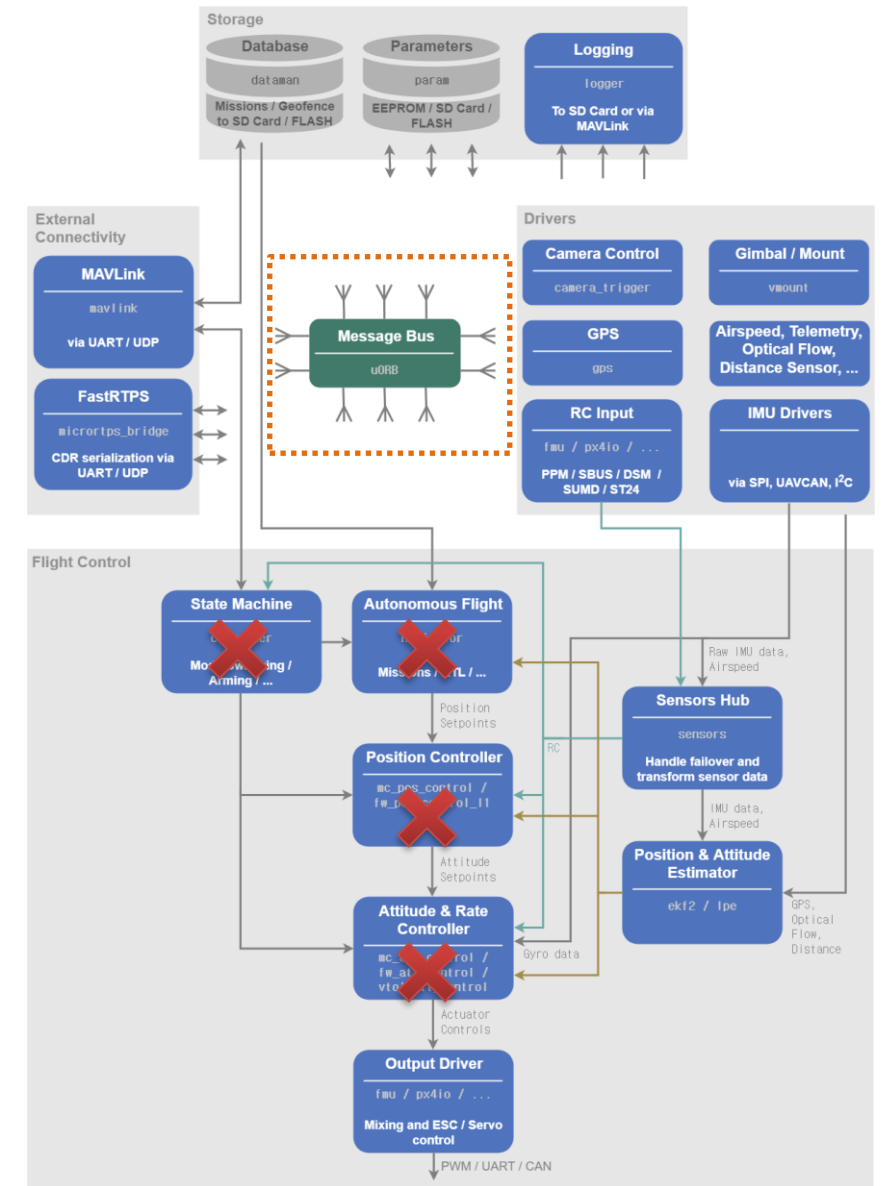
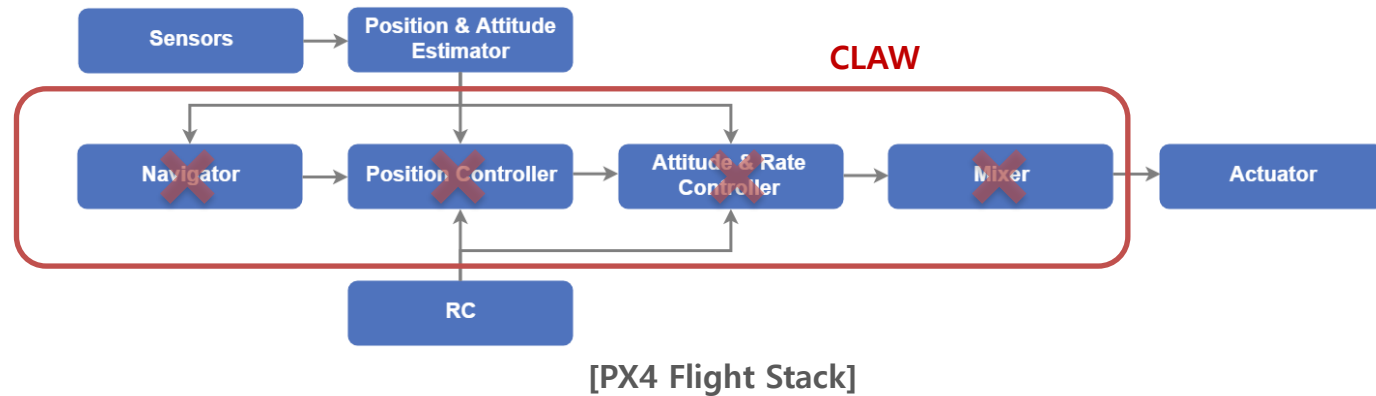
PX4 software architecture

• PX4 Software architecture

- All functionality is divided into exchangeable and reusable components
- Communication is done by asynchronous message passing (uORB)
- The system can deal with varying workload (NuttX)

• CLAW modules (→ replace with Simulink model)

- Commander : Manage flight/control mode
- Navigator : Waypoint guidance
- Position controller : Maintain and follow position command
- Attitude/rate controller : Stabilize and control attitude
- Mixer : Command motor output(PWM)



[High-level Software architecture]

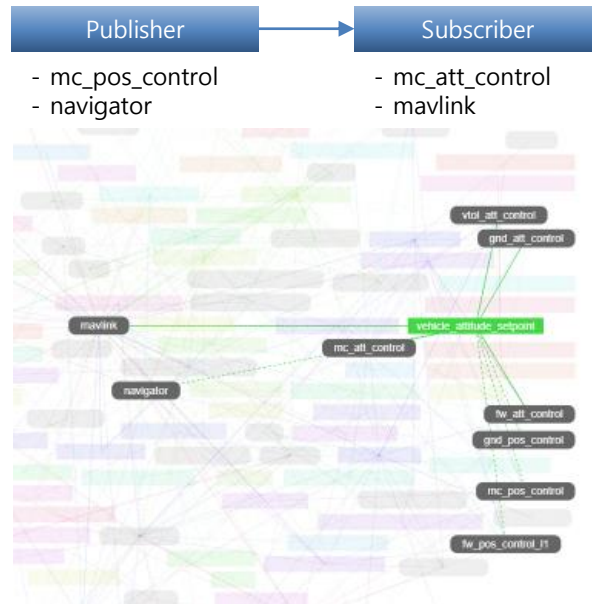
PX4 uORB message

Interface with PX4 through uORB messages

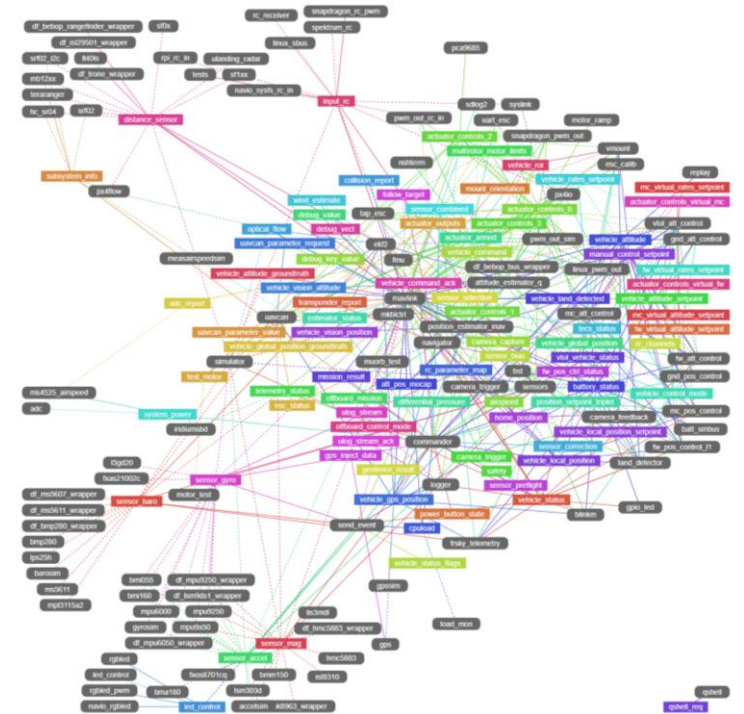
- uORB is asynchronous publish() / subscribe() messaging API used for inter-thread/inter-process communication.
- All message contains timestamp(μsec) because of asynchronous communication
- Each module publishes and subscribes topic related to special purpose
 - PX4 topic : 117ea (Firmware v1.10.2)

Topic : vehicle_attitude_setpoint

Contents	Description
timestamp	Time since system start(μsec)
roll_body	X-body angle in NED frame
pitch_body	Y-body angle in NED frame
yaw_body	Z-body angle in NED frame
yaw_sp_move_rate	Yaw rate command
q_d[4]	Desired quaternion
q_d_valid	Set to true if quaternion is valid
thrust_body[3]	Normalized thrust command
roll_reset_integral	Reset roll integral
pitch_reset_integral	Reset pitch integral
yaw_reset_integral	Reset yaw integral
....	Fixed wing UAV variables



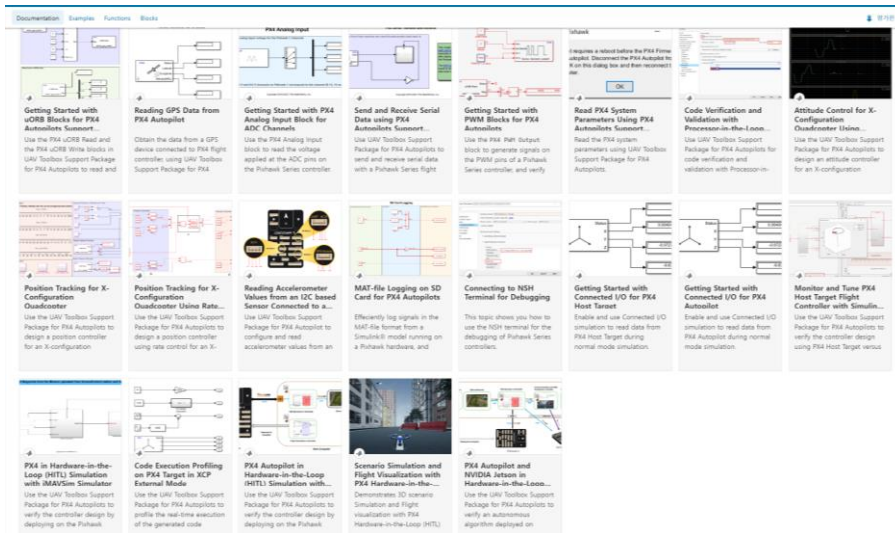
[uORB Graph]



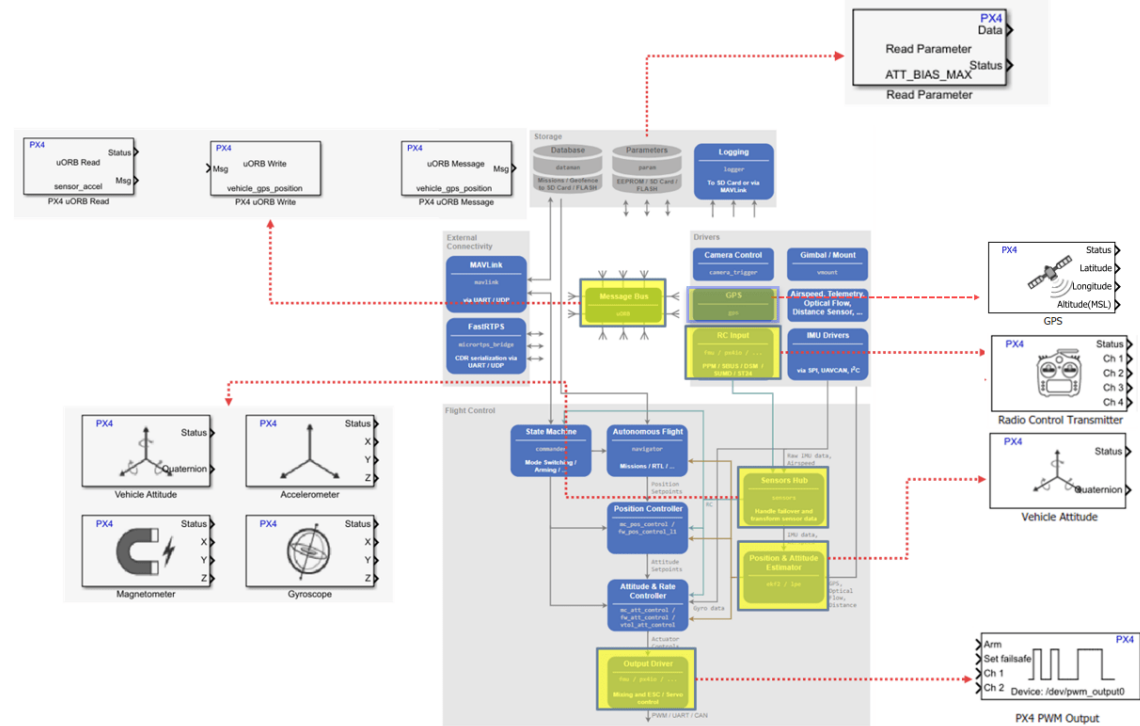
UAV Toolbox & PX4 Support package

➤ The PX4 support package provides blocks such as reading parameters and reading/writing uORB messages

- Customized blocks : RC input, vehicle attitude, accelerometer, etc
- PWM output driver blocks
- Serial communication blocks



[UAV Toolbox PX4 Support package]



[PX4 support blocks]

PX4 Task

- Px4_Simulink_app_task : customized CLAW task

Pre Flight: **Custom CLAW**

PID	COMMAND	CPU(ms)	CPU(%)	USED/STACK	PRIO(BASE)	STATE	FD
0	Idle Task	28771	38.100	216/ 512	0 (0)	READY	3
1	hpwork	0	0.000	344/ 1260	249 (249)	w:sig	3
2	lpwork	34	0.100	688/ 1516	50 (50)	w:sig	8
3	init	902	0.000	2072/ 2604	100 (100)	w:sem	3
4	wq:manager	0	0.000	368/ 1252	243 (243)	w:sem	4
80	wq:att_pos_ctrl	3517	6.100	4768/ 6596	244 (244)	w:sem	4
14	wq:lp_default	19	0.100	812/ 1700	250 (205)	w:sem	4
18	wq:I2C1	219	0.400	848/ 1244	248 (248)	w:sem	4
22	wq:hp_default	601	1.100	1076/ 1596	243 (243)	w:sem	4
24	px4io	556	0.900	916/ 1484	240 (240)	w:sem	4
27	gps	124	0.200	960/ 1644	208 (208)	w:sem	4
30	wq:SPI1	12575	21.600	1016/ 1396	254 (254)	w:sem	4
47	wq:I2C3	198	0.400	872/ 1244	246 (246)	w:sem	4
49	wq:SPI4	189	0.300	600/ 1396	251 (251)	w:sem	4
77	sensors	1534	2.600	1308/ 1964	237 (237)	w:sem	10
83	wq:rate_ctrl	1004	1.800	892/ 1596	255 (255)	w:sem	4
233	log_writer_file	184	13.300	824/ 1164	60 (60)	w:sem	4
191	mavlink_if0	762	1.200	1648/ 2484	100 (100)	w:sig	4
197	mavlink_rcv_if0	179	0.300	2520/ 3916	175 (175)	w:sem	4
221	px4_simulink_app_task	1	0.000	816/ 2012	205 (205)	w:sem	16
230	mavlink_if1	4	0.000	1384/ 2532	100 (100)	w:sig	3
232	logger	289	1.600	3088/ 3668	233 (233)	RUN	4
249	<pthread>	6032	8.300	752/ 8700	250 (250)	w:sem	16
250	<pthread>	60	0.100	368/ 8700	249 (249)	w:sem	16

Processes: 24 total, 2 running, 22 sleeping, max FDs: 20
 CPU usage: 60.40% tasks, 1.50% sched, 38.10% idle
 DMA Memory: 5120 total, 1024 used 1024 peak
 Uptime: 59.088s total, 28.771s idle

Pre Flight: **Original PX4**

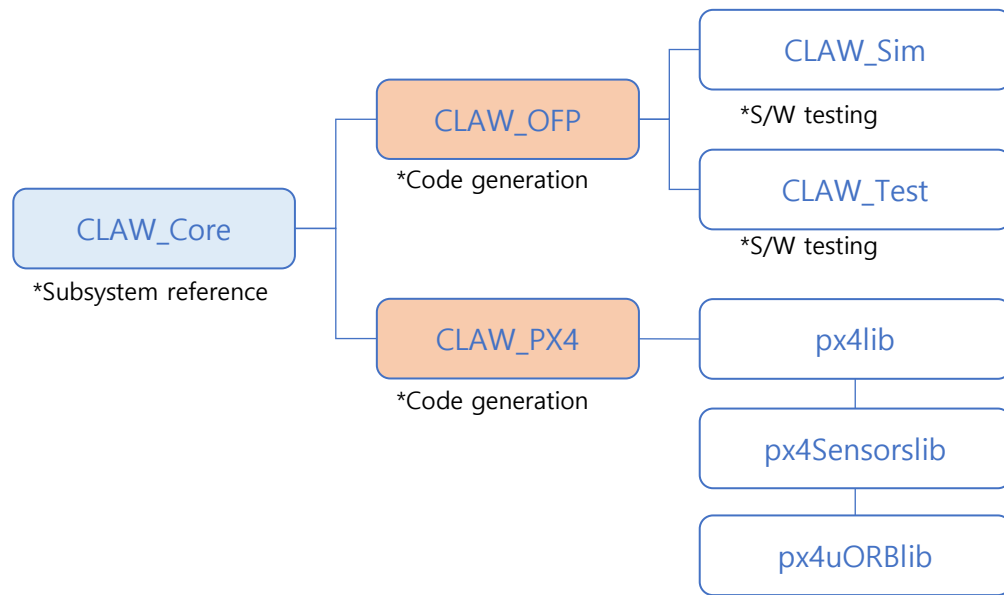
PID	COMMAND	CPU(ms)	CPU(%)	USED/STACK	PRIO(BASE)	STATE	FD
0	Idle Task	1900091	44.000	244/ 512	0 (0)	READY	3
1	hpwork	0	0.000	344/ 1260	249 (249)	w:sig	3
2	lpwork	2272	0.000	1016/ 1516	50 (50)	w:sig	8
3	init	871	0.000	1992/ 2604	100 (100)	w:sem	3
4	wq:manager	0	0.000	384/ 1252	243 (243)	w:sem	4
187	wq:att_pos_ctrl	235324	6.500	4768/ 6596	244 (244)	w:sem	4
17	dataman	57	0.000	752/ 1180	90 (90)	w:sem	4
20	wq:lp_default	2622	0.000	812/ 1700	205 (205)	READY	4
24	wq:I2C1	17824	0.400	936/ 1244	248 (248)	w:sem	4
28	wq:hp_default	35945	1.000	1120/ 1596	243 (243)	w:sem	4
142	wq:SPI1	803364	22.200	960/ 1396	254 (254)	w:sem	4
157	wq:I2C3	12533	0.400	824/ 1244	246 (246)	w:sem	4
159	wq:SPI4	12152	0.300	600/ 1396	251 (251)	w:sem	4
186	sensors	96359	2.400	1308/ 1964	237 (237)	w:sem	10
197	commander	27000	0.800	2160/ 3212	140 (140)	w:sig	6
198	wq:rate_ctrl	216989	6.200	1120/ 1596	255 (255)	w:sem	4
199	commander_low_prio	57	0.000	608/ 2996	50 (50)	w:sem	6
277	gps	5730	0.200	1088/ 1620	208 (208)	w:sem	4
335	mavlink_if1	38861	1.100	1688/ 2484	100 (100)	READY	5
336	mavlink_rcv_if1	10661	0.300	2792/ 3916	175 (175)	w:sem	5
371	px4io	112950	3.200	1048/ 1484	240 (240)	w:sem	4
651	navigator	2354	0.000	896/ 1764	105 (105)	READY	4
695	logger	12833	1.600	3080/ 3644	233 (233)	RUN	4
702	log_writer_file	295	7.200	824/ 1164	60 (60)	w:sem	4

Processes: 24 total, 5 running, 19 sleeping, max FDs: 20
 CPU usage: 53.80% tasks, 2.20% sched, 44.00% idle
 DMA Memory: 5120 total, 2048 used 2048 peak
 Uptime: 3618.400s total, 1900.091s idle

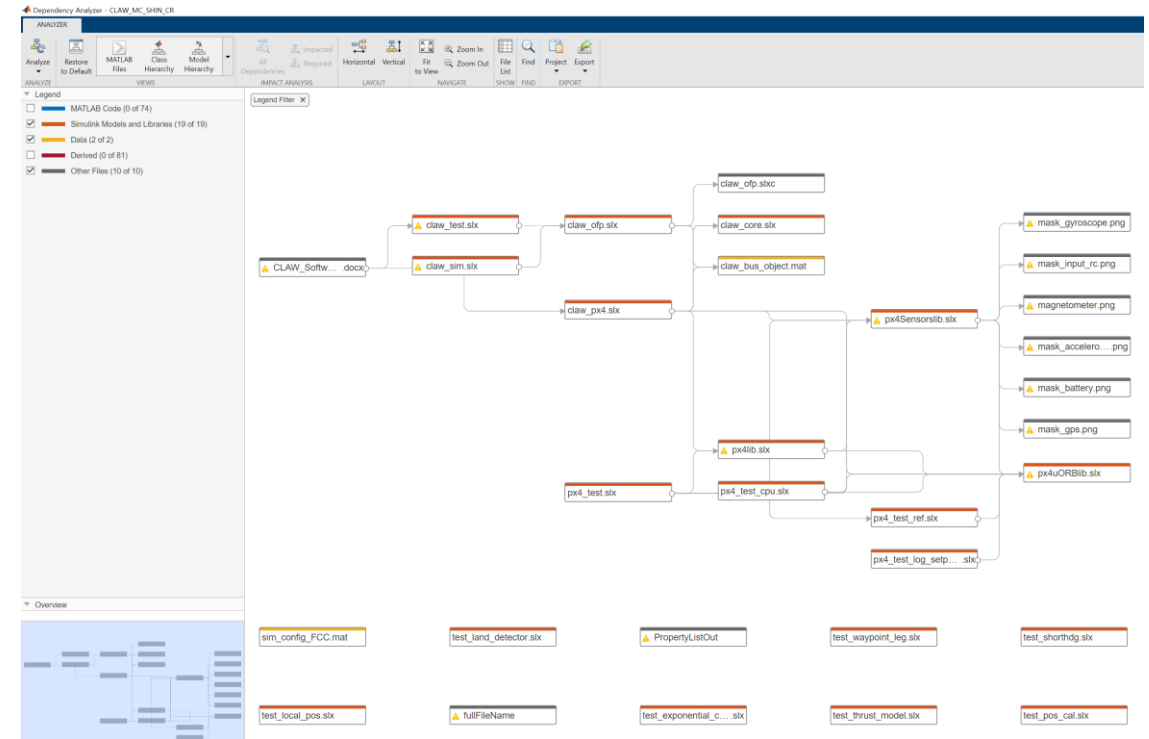
CLAW Software development for multicopter

CLAW development project

- Hardware independent control law development environments
 - CLAW Core : control law mode and controller (subsystem reference)
 - CLAW OFP : code generation settings and input/output definition to integrated with custom OFP
 - CLAW PX4 : input/output definitions and logics to interface with PX4
- Software test model
 - CLAW_Sim : flight dynamics model for controller verification
 - CLAW_Test : unit test model of CLAW



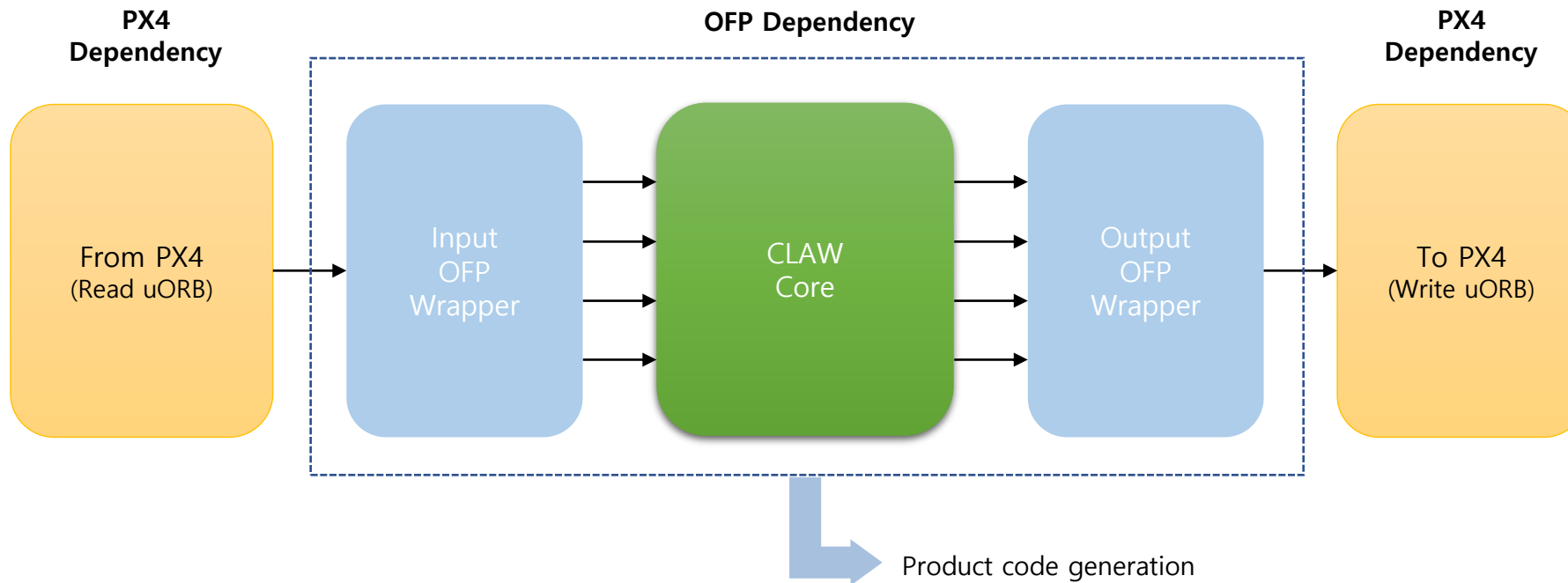
[Simulink model dependency tree]



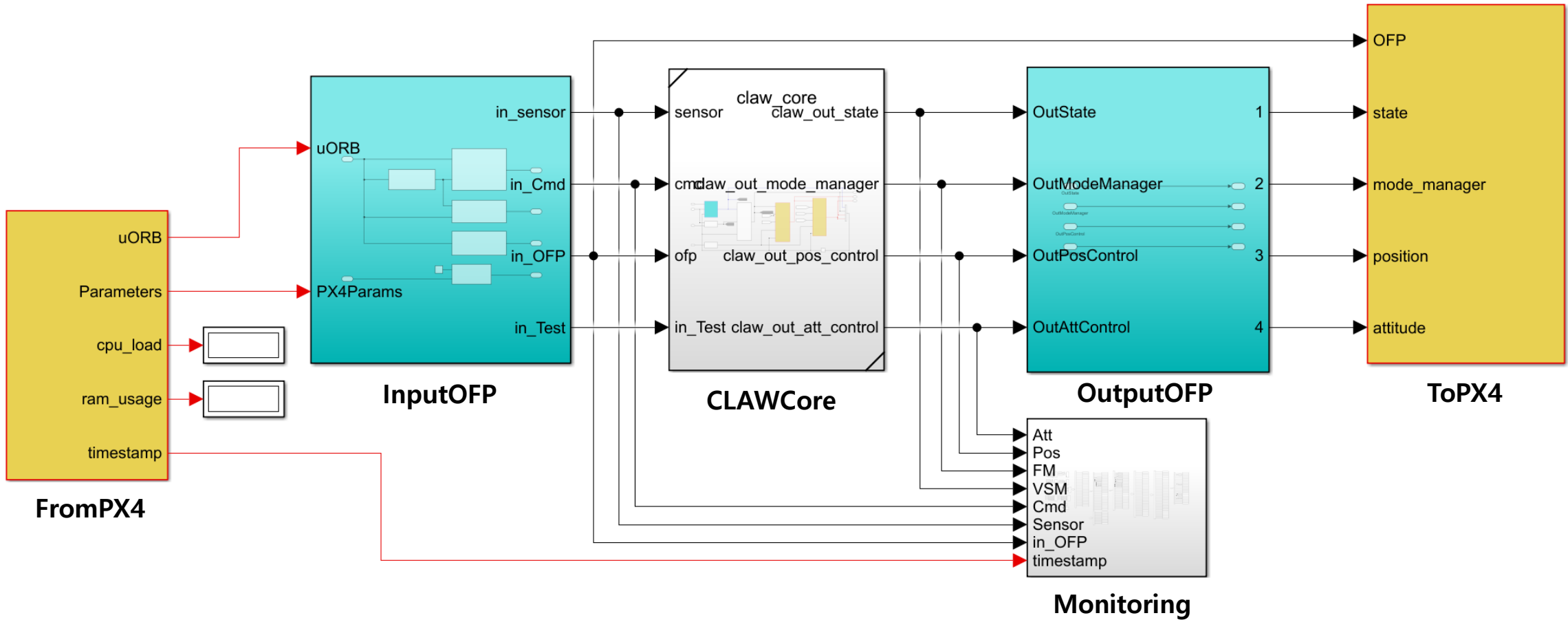
[Project dependency analyzer]

CLAW_PX4 Simulink model architecture

- From PX4 : Receive navigation information and sensor such as attitude, angular rate, accelerations from uORB message
- CLAW Core : Sensor filtering, flight decision, flight mode management, position/velocity control, attitude control
- Input/Output Wrapper : Interface between OFP and PX4
- To PX4 : Output motor command and CLAW status



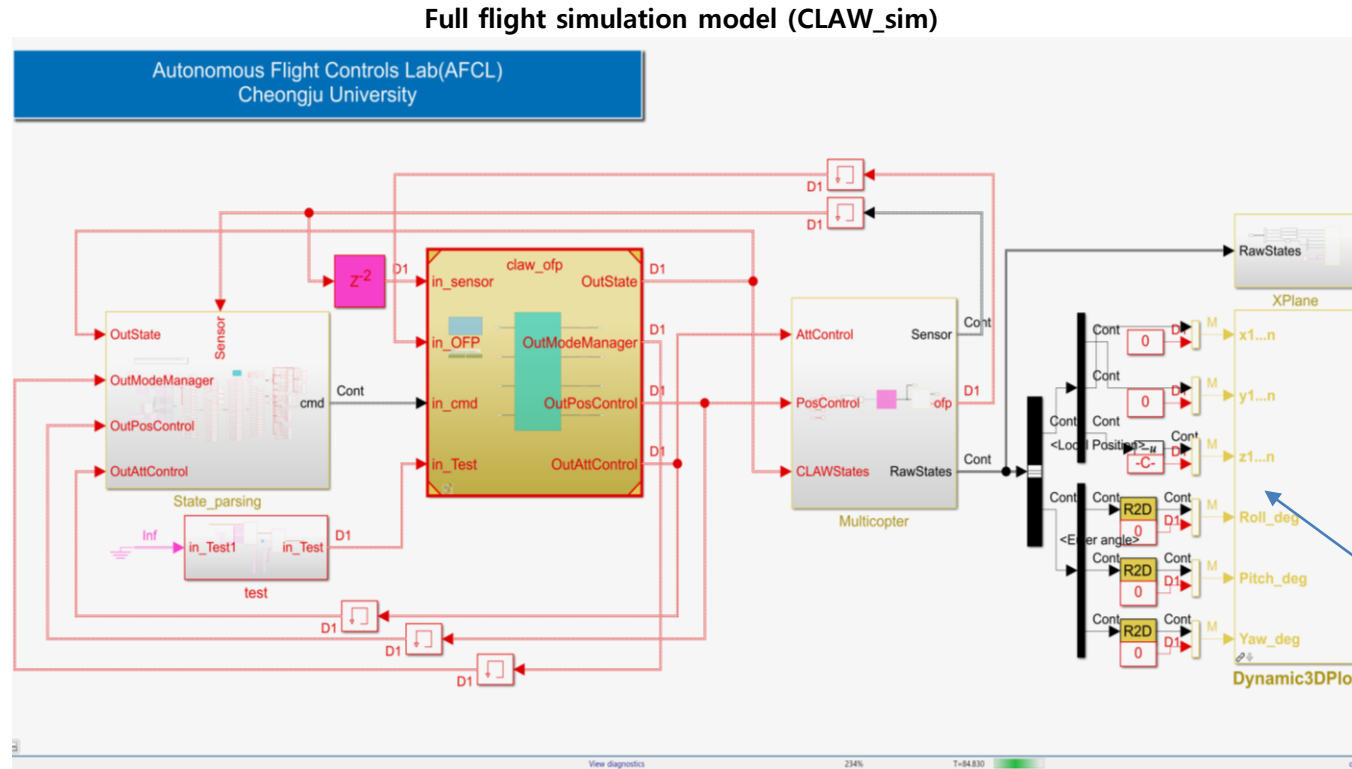
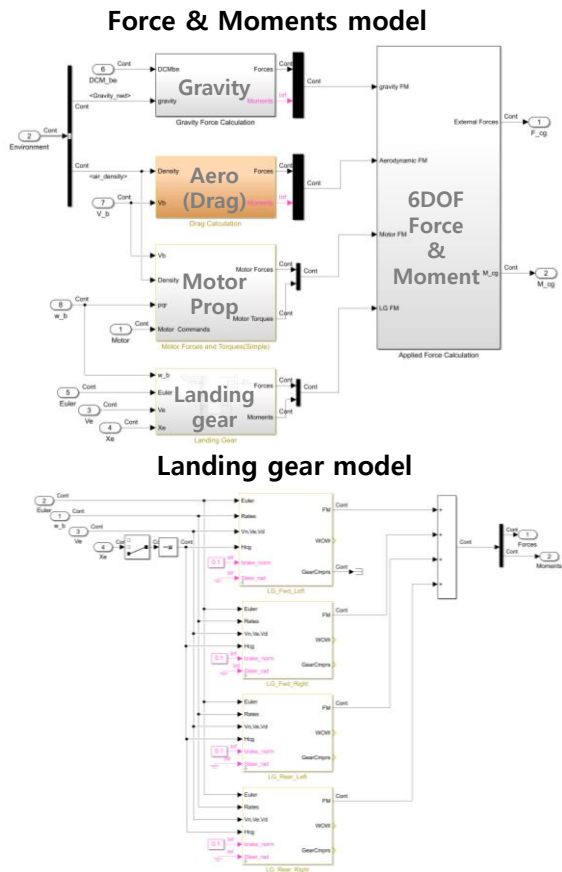
- Top-level Simulink model of the CLAW for PX4 integration



CLAW S/W Design

Simulation & verification environment in MATLAB/Simulink

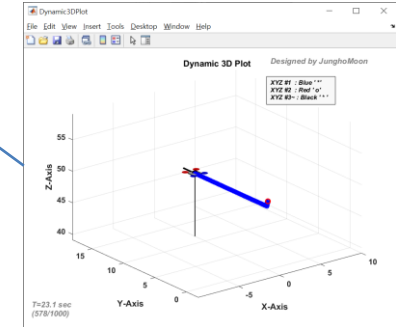
- The motor/prop model considers effects of motor/arm canted angles(ϕ, θ, ψ) and installation position(x, y, z)
- The landing gear model includes four spring-damper system
- The aerodynamic model contains only the drag term (Trim attitude effect in forward/lateral flight)



X-Plane(UDP)

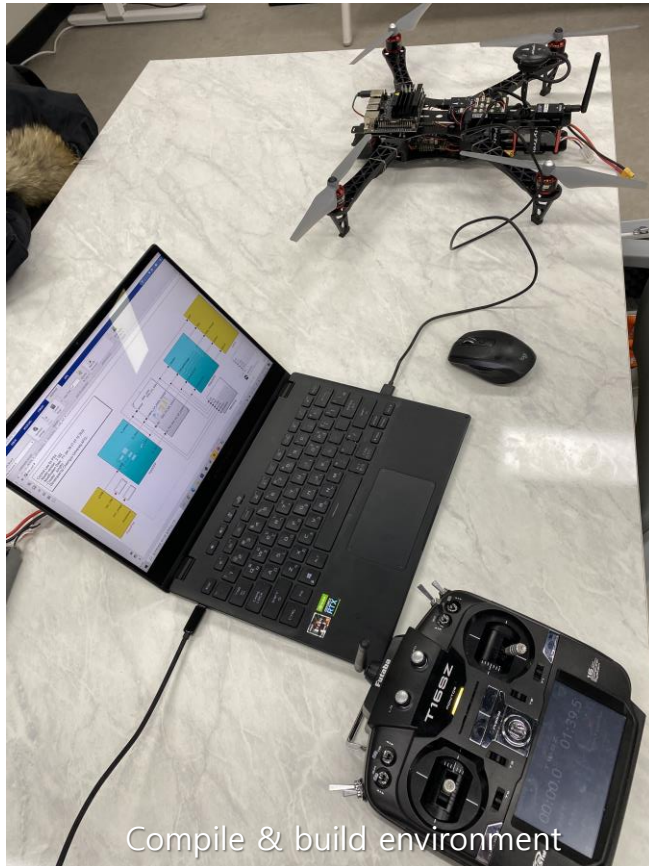


Realtime 3D plot



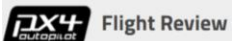
- **CLAW was verified through indoor & outdoor flight test**

- Purpose : CLAW function and performance verification through flight test
- Platform : TBS-500 Quadcopter, Pixhawk4, PX4 v1.10.2 (customized CLAW task)
- GCS : Windows10, QGCS, Futaba T16SZ R/C Controller, 433MHz UHF modem
- Location : Cheongju University, Indoor flight test lab



Flight data monitoring & analysis using PX4 tools

- QGCS : Open-source ground control software for drone
- Flight Review : Open-source flight data analyzer that is easy to use and powerful in performance analysis



Do you need help with interpreting the plots? See [here](#)

PX4 Quadrotor

[Open 3D View](#) [Open PID Analysis](#)

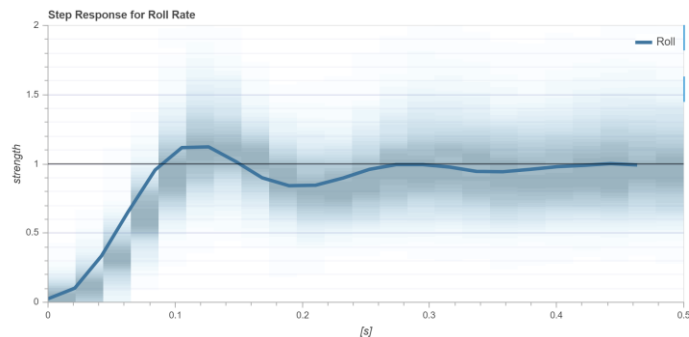
야외 비행(바람 부는날)

Airframe:	Team Blacksheep Discovery	Distance:	158.2 m
Hardware:	Quadrotor Wide (10015)	Max Altitude Difference:	9 m
Software:	PX4_FMU_V5 (V500)	Average Speed:	1.3 km/h
Version:	b135c69d	Max Speed:	10.5 km/h
OS:	NutTX, v7.29.0	Max Speed Horizontal:	8.3 km/h
Version:	NutTX, v7.29.0	Max Speed Up:	10.5 km/h
Estimator:	EKF2	Max Speed Down:	4.2 km/h
Logging Start ?:	22-02-2022 16:58	Down:	21.8 km/h
Logging Duration:	0:06:56	Max Tilt Angle:	deg
Dropouts:	1 (0.02 s)		
Vehicle UID:	00020000000393037363138510c00190022		
Feedback:	바람 부는 날 옥상에서 야외 시험 기체 조금 떨림.		

Add a detected error...



(Flight Review®)PID Analysis



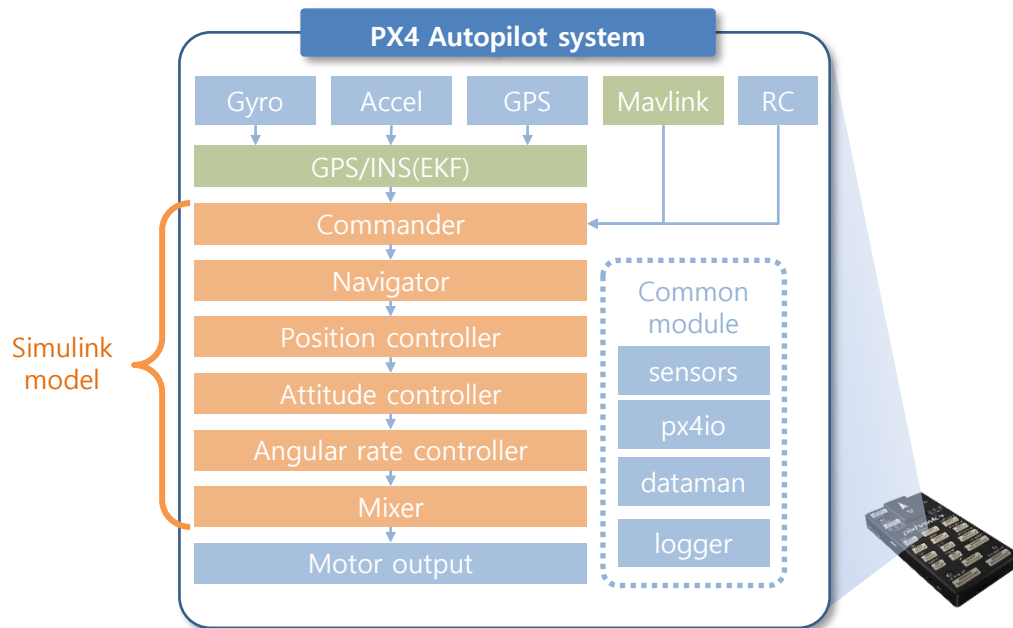
Conclusion

Result

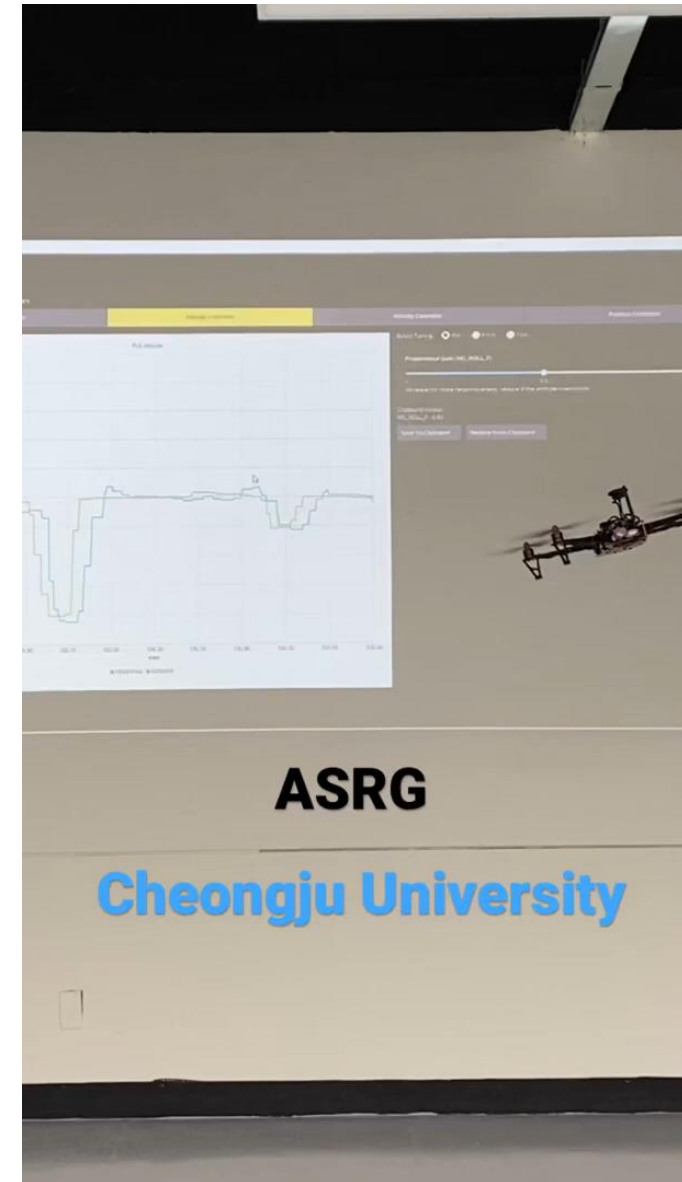
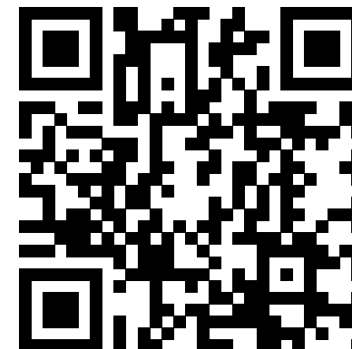
- We analyzed PX4 module architecture and uORB for CLAW&PX4 integration
- The common CLAW software framework was designed for custom OFP and PX4
- CLAW was verified through flight tests with open architecture hardware & software(Pixhawk+PX4)

Future work

- Simulink/MAVLINK interface module development
- Aggressive maneuvering controller design & testing (H-infinity, MPC, L1 adaptive control)
- GPS/INS(EKF) filter design and implementation using Simulink



Youtube link



MATLAB EXPO

Thank you



© 2022 The MathWorks, Inc. MATLAB and Simulink are registered trademarks of The MathWorks, Inc. See [mathworks.com/trademarks](https://www.mathworks.com/trademarks) for a list of additional trademarks. Other product or brand names may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.