





GUIDANCE, NAVIGATION AND CONTROL OF SPIKE FOR DESCENT, LANDING AND HOPPING ON AN ASTEROID

Himangshu Kalita, Jekanthan Thangavelautham Space and Terrestrial Robotic Exploration (SpaceTREx) Laboratory Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Department University of Arizona



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Asteroid Surface Exploration



Geohistory Security/Deflection ISRU

Short, focused, high-risk, high-return...

Complements flyby and orbital observation science.



Science Focused



- Determine early geo-history, composition
- Seismic analysis from multiple locations
- Analyze pristine, unearthed regolith

Take a step back in time to the primordial solar system...



Challenges

- Asteroid mobility
 - Low-gravity, low-escape velocity
- Surface contact risks
 - Dust
 - Static charge
 - Tracking and communication
- Varying high and low temperature



Related Work



Current missions envisions performing touch-andgo operations over an asteroid surfaces



Related Work



Augmented with small landers....



SPIKE Spacecraft

Keep the spacecraft at a safe distance

- Amphibious lander/flyby spacecraft
- Based on JPL Micro Surveyor
- Propelled by xenon fueled solar-electric Hall thrusters (5km/s delta v)
- Solar panels can generate 750W
- Blue Canyon's XACT 50 (star-tracker, IMU, 3-axis reaction wheels)
- JPL's DSN compatible IRIS X-band Radio V2.1 (256 KBps)





SPIKE Spacecraft

- Onboard instruments would be used to
 - Analyze subsurface volatiles and organics
 - Conduct seismology on asteroids
- Science Payload includes
 - Seismometers
 - Cameras
 - Other instrument will be designed to access >10 cm beneath the surface of the asteroid





Mission Concept





Asteroid Dynamical Environment Modeling

• Asteroid's shape described as a polyhedron



• Polyhedron Model of Asteroid Castalia



Gravitational Model

• Gravitational potential of a constant density polyhedron can be determined by

•
$$V(r) = -\frac{1}{2}G\rho \sum_{e \ \epsilon \ edge} r_e^T E_e r_e \cdot L_e + \frac{1}{2}G\rho \sum_{f \ \epsilon \ face} r_f^T F_f r_f \cdot \omega_f$$



• Gravitational field of asteroid Castalia



Disturbance Forces

• We modeled solar-radiation pressure and third-body gravitational perturbation

•
$$D = \frac{\eta d R}{|d|^3} - \frac{\mu}{|R-d|^3} (R-d)$$

- η : solar radiation pressure coefficient
- *d* : position vector of the sun from the asteroid
- R : position vector of the spacecraft w.r.t to asteroid's body fixed coordinate system
- μ : product of gravitational constant and mass of sun



Spacecraft Dynamics Model

- O_a-X_aY_aZ_a: asteroid's body fixed coordinate system
- **O**₁-X₁Y₁Z₁: landing site coordinate system
- O_b-X_bY_bZ_b: spacecraft's body fixed coordinate system
- ω_a : angular velocity of asteroid w.r.t it's spin axis Z_a





Spacecraft Dynamics Model

• Equation of motion of the spacecraft in the asteroid's body fixed coordinate system is:

$$\ddot{R}_{bs} + 2\omega \times \dot{R}_{bs} + \omega \times (\omega \times R_{bs}) + \dot{\omega} \times R_{bs} = U + G + D$$

 $\omega = [0 \ 0 \ \omega_a]^T \qquad \dot{\omega} = [0 \ 0 \ 0]^T$ U: control acceleration G: gravitational acceleration D: disturbance acceleration



Spacecraft Dynamics Model

• The relationship between \mathbf{R}_{bs} , \mathbf{R}_{ls} and \mathbf{R}_{bl} is $R_{bs} = T_l^b R_{ls} + R_{bl}$

where,
$$T_l^b = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \lambda \sin \phi & -\sin \lambda & \cos \lambda \cos \phi \\ \sin \lambda \sin \phi & \cos \phi & \sin \lambda \cos \phi \\ -\cos \phi & 0 & \sin \phi \end{bmatrix}$$

• The equation of motion of the spacecraft in the landing site coordinate system is

$$\ddot{R}_{ls} + 2(T_l^b)^{-1}\omega \times (T_l^b\dot{R}_{ls}) + (T_l^b)^{-1}\omega \times (\omega \times (T_l^bR_{ls} + R_{bl}))$$

= $u + g + d$
 $u = (T_l^b)^{-1}U, g = (T_l^b)^{-1}G, d = (T_l^b)^{-1}D$



Descent Phase

- The spacecraft is made to follow a general trajectory
- The spacecraft flies to a point directly above the intended landing site in time τ
- The desired acceleration profile passes through the initial and final state

$$a_d(t) = C_0 + C_1 t + C_2 t^2$$

$$v_d(t) = C_0 t + \frac{1}{2}C_1 t^2 + \frac{1}{3}C_2 t^3 + v_0$$

$$r_d(t) = \frac{1}{2}C_0 t^2 + \frac{1}{6}C_1 t^3 + \frac{1}{12}C_2 t^4 + v_0 t + r_0$$



Descent Phase Controller

• Define position tracking error and velocity tracking error as:

$$e = R_{ls} - r_d$$
$$e_d = \dot{R}_{ls} - v_d$$

• We design a PD control law to track the reference position and velocity profiles.

$$u = -k_p e - k_d e_d$$

 k_p and k_d are proportional and derivative controller gains



Descent Phase Simulation



Initial and final position and velocity defined w.r.t the landing site coordinate system



Descent Phase Simulation





Landing Phase

- Spacecraft modeled as inverted pendulum
- Spacecraft descends with an initial velocity under the action of gravity
- Reaction wheels controls the attitude of the spacecraft so that it lands vertically on its extended boom
- The attitude dynamics is represented as: *ω* = -J⁻¹(*ω* × J*ω*) + τ_c + τ_d
 J: moment of inertia of the spacecraft
 τ_c: control torque, τ_d: disturbance torque



Landing Phase Controller

• Control torque is modelled by a PD control law

$$\tau_c = -C_p(q-q_d) - C_d(\omega-\omega_d)$$

q, q_d : actual and desired Euler angles ω , ω_d : actual and desired angular velocities C_p , C_d : proportional and derivative controller gains



Parameters	Value
Reaction wheel mass	0.75 kg
Reaction wheel dia.	11 cm
Reaction wheel height	3.8 cm
Maximum torque	0.025 Nm
Initial position	[0, 0, 100] m
Initial velocity	[0, 0, -0.2] m/s
Initial Euler angles	[0.1745, -0.3491, 0.3491] rad
Initial angular velocity	[0.1, 0.2, -0.1] rad/s

Initial position, velocity, Euler angles and angular velocities defined w.r.t the landing site coordinate system















Descent and Landing Trajectory





Hopping Dynamics

• Simulated hopping trajectories with initial velocities between 0.1 to0.45 m/s





Hopping Dynamics



- Large portion of the trajectories are irregular
- Demonstrates extreme non-Keplerian behavior around irregularly shaped minor celestial bodies (Scheeres, 2012)



SPIKE Concept Videos





Conclusions

- Presented GNC capabilities of SPIKE.
- Presented detailed dynamics of the spacecraft w.r.t a small asteroid's frame of references.
- PD control law developed for a finite time descent trajectory.
- Presented attitude control of the spacecraft with the onboard reaction wheels during its landing phase.
- Also, presented the feasibility of SPIKE performing multiple long-range hops to explore the asteroid.



