Special Issue

UAV Path Planning and Navigation

Message from the Guest Editors

In the last decade, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have gained popularity in many application fields, due to their flexibility, level of automation/autonomy and relatively low cost. Their potential can be exploited to perform several missions, reducing the need for human efforts in risky operations. Nowadays, UAVs are key tools in several applications, such as monitoring, inspection and surveillance. Moreover, brand-new applications are envisaged to be carried out autonomously by drones in the near future, including the transportation of people for relatively short distances and in environments not served by traditional aviation. Mission safety and effectiveness are key to fully unleashing UAVs' potential. Several solutions and technological advances are being developed by the scientific community in this direction to expand UAVs' capabilities and enable missions to be autonomously carried out by these platforms. To this aim, both autonomous planning and navigation functionality should be guaranteed. The first allows a UAV to design its trajectory and confers decision-making capabilities to help UAVs counteract any unexpected event.

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