Special Issue

Path Planning, Trajectory Tracking and Guidance for UAVs: 3rd Edition

Message from the Guest Editors

Path planning, trajectory tracking, and guidance are essential aspects for the autonomous operations of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). These processes involve the determination of the optimal path, implementation of the planned path, and real-time adjustments to ensure accurate tracking and obstacle avoidance. The ability to plan efficient and safe paths for UAVs is crucial for the successful completion of missions, especially in complex environments. Moreover, the implementation of planned paths while considering external factors such as wind and turbulence, along with real-time guidance adjustment, ensures UAV's safety and stability. Research in this area focuses on developing advanced algorithms and control systems that enable UAVs to operate autonomously and effectively in complex environments.

Guest Editors

Dr. Heng Shi

Prof. Dr. Jihong Zhu

Prof. Dr. Zheng Chen

Dr. Minchi Kuang

Deadline for manuscript submissions

15 December 2025



Drones

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.8 CiteScore 7.4



mdpi.com/si/240109

Drones
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
drones@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/drones





an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.8 CiteScore 7.4







Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Drones is the only international open-access journal about the science, policy and technology of drones and its applications. Nowadays, the proliferation of drones is a reality for local policy makers, regulatory bodies, mapping authorities, startups and consolidated companies. There are many uses and benefits of drones: from the emergence of new sensors and the evolution of new platforms; to the development of specific software and the emergence of new applications. Drones publishes reviews, regular research papers, communications and short notes, without restriction on the length of papers. Drones seeks to provide a central forum for scholars engaged in drones' research and applications.

There is a need for high quality papers in this area and the Drones Editorial Board are widely recognized international leaders. Drones journal guarantees a serious peer review and a rapid publication across the whole discipline of drones.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Diego González-Aguilera

Cartographic and Land Engineering Department, Higher Polytechnic School of Avila, University of Salamanca, Hornos Caleros, 50 05003 Avila, Spain

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), Inspec, Ei Compendex and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q1 (Remote Sensing) / CiteScore - Q1 (Aerospace Engineering)

