

Special Issue

UAV-Based Sensing Techniques, Applications and Prospective

Message from the Guest Editors

The application of unmanned aerial vehicles has been increasing in civil arena, where their high maneuverability can play an essential role in sensing and interpreting the environment by acquiring data from multiple key positions. The main challenge is whether the UAVs can accurately estimate their position and navigate regarding their environment and the objects they have to interact with (e.g., for inspection and physical manipulation). The mentioned challenges require the successful exploitation of sensor fusion based on onboard sensors, in which vision and 3D LiDAR play a key role, not only in positioning, but also in scene recognition, see and avoid, as well as control and navigation itself. Several techniques that are now propelling the improvement in UAV autonomy are visual inertial odometry (VIO), visual semantic SLAM, deep learning for object recognition and localization, as well as direct reinforcement learning for planning and control, among others. This Special Issue aims to bring together top researches to contribute to UAV use as a very versatile aerial robot for sensing of the environment for a vast number of industrial applications.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Pascual Campoy

Computer Vision and Aerial Robotics (CVAR) Group, Centre for Automation and Robotics (UPM-CSIC), Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Calle José Gutiérrez Abascal 2, 28006 Madrid, Spain

Dr. Adrian Carrio

Computer Vision and Aerial Robotics (CVAR) Group, Centre for Automation and Robotics (UPM-CSIC), Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Calle José Gutiérrez Abascal 2, 28006 Madrid, Spain

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Vittorio M. N. Passaro

Dipartimento di Ingegneria Elettrica e dell'Informazione (Department of Electrical and Information Engineering), Politecnico di Bari, Via Edoardo Orabona n. 4, 70125 Bari, Italy

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