



Multicopter Design and Control Practice

— A Series Experiments Based on MATLAB and Pixhawk

Lesson 05 Propulsion System Design Experiment

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Outline

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5. Summary

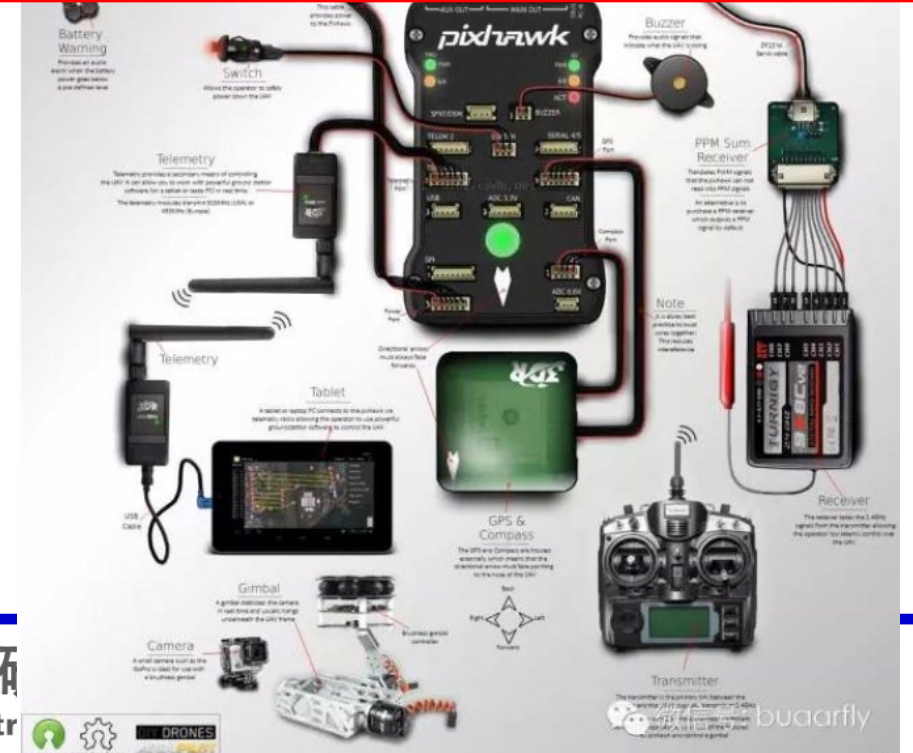


Preliminary

Propulsion system



Figure. Propulsion system





Preliminary

The relationship between the **airframe radius** R and the **maximum radius of a propeller** r_{\max} is (the number of arms of the multicopter is n)

$$R = r_{\max} / \sin \frac{180^\circ}{n}$$

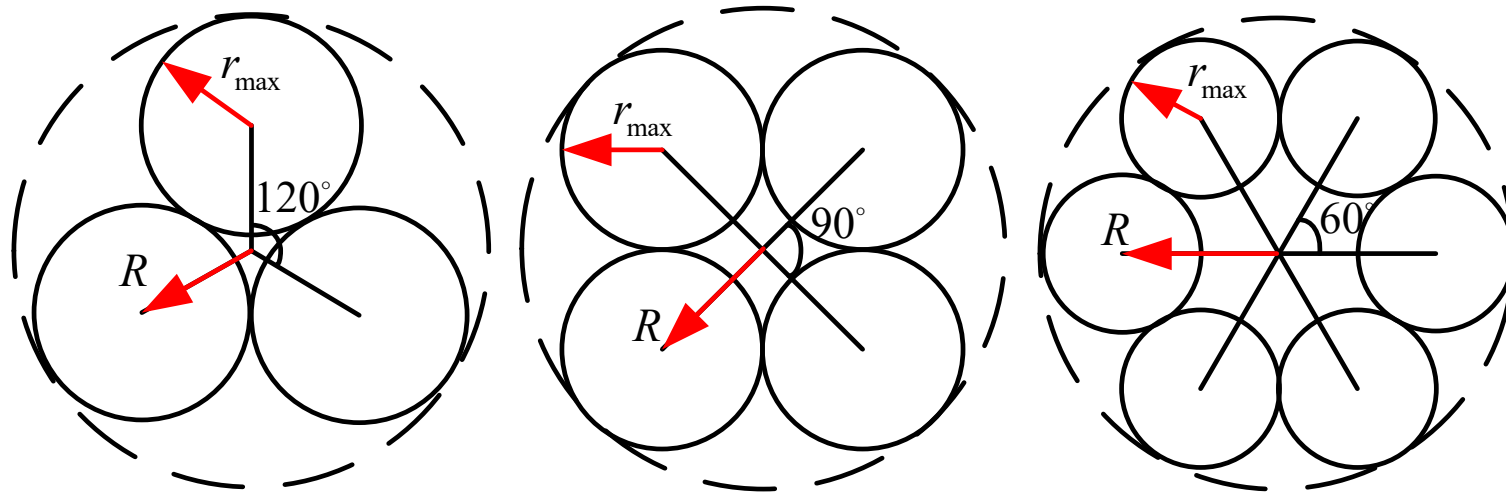
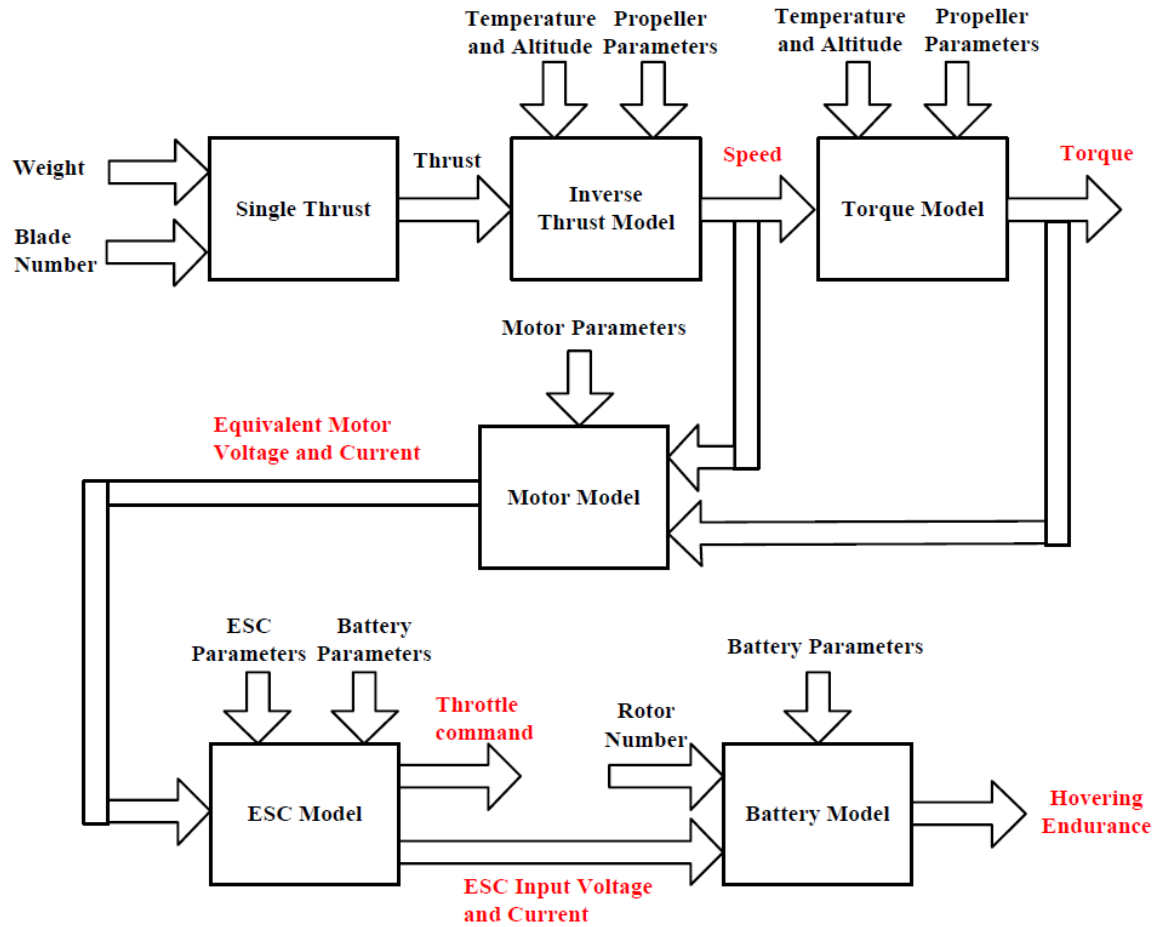


Figure. Multicopters with different airframe configurations and their geometry parameters



Preliminary



- Propeller Model: Thrust and torque
- Motor Model
- ESC Model
- Battery Model

Figure. Solution to Hovering Endurance

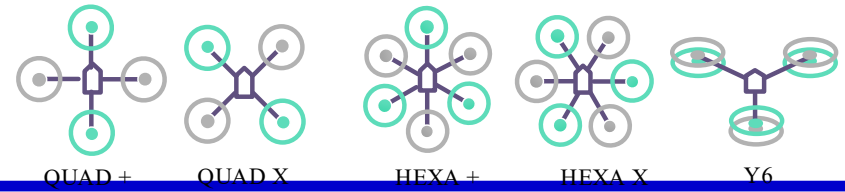


Preliminary

In order to make this chapter self-contained, the preliminary is from Chapter. 3 and 4 of “**Quan Quan. *Introduction to Multicopter Design and Control*. Springer, Singapore, 2017**” .

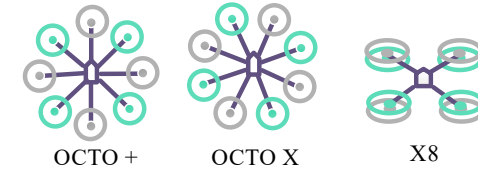


Basic Experiment



(a) Quadcopter

(b) Hexacopter



(c) Octocopter

Fig. Some basic configurations of multicopters

□ Experimental Objective

■ Things to prepare

The multicopter performance evaluation website: <https://flyeval.com/paper/>.

Dongjie Shi, Xunhua Dai, Xiaowei Zhang, and Quan Quan. A Practical Performance Evaluation Method for Electric Multicopters. IEEE/ASME Transactions on Mechatronics. 2017, 22(3):1337-1348.

■ Objectives

A multicopter (e.g., a tricopter, coaxial hexacopter, quadcopter, hexacopter, coaxial octocopter, and octocopter) should be configured with hover endurance longer than 10 min by using the evaluation website, where the flight environment parameters are “Altitude”: 0 m, and “Air Temperature”: 25°C. In addition, all configuration parameters and basic performance parameters of the designed multicopters should be recorded from the multicopter performance evaluation website.



Basic Experiment

□ Configuration Procedure

(1) Configure a tricopter

The first step is to configure a tricopter in which the “Total Weight” is set to “1.0 kg”, the “Frame Size” is set to “450 mm”, the “Altitude” is set to “0 m”, the “Air Temperature” is set to “25° C”, and the “Aero Design” is set to “medium”. Other parameters, including the weight and the resistance of each component, are estimated by statistical models from the website www.flyeval.com/paper/.



	Total Weight 1.0 kg	Frame Size 450 mm	Altitude 0 m	Air Temperature 25 °C	Aero Design medium
	Min. Battery Capacity 15%	Max. Takeoff Throttle 85%	FCU Max. Tilt Limit No Limit	FCU & Attaches Current 0.5 A	

Figure. Tricopter basic parameters







Basic Experiment

□ Configuration Procedure

(2) Select the brands and type specification of the motor, propeller, ESC, and battery to comprise a feasible propulsion system.

A screenshot of a web-based configuration interface for a tricopter's propulsion system. The interface is organized into four horizontal rows, each representing a different component. Each row contains a small icon on the left, followed by a label and a dropdown menu for the brand, and then a label and a dropdown menu for the model. The battery row also includes a 'Cell Structure' section with three dropdown menus for 'S', 'P', and 'P' values. A 'Calculate !' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

	Motor Brand: DJI	Model: 2212 KV920	
	Propeller Brand DJI	Model: CFP 10x3.8	
	ESC Brand * Common...	Model max 30A	
	Battery Brand * Common...	Model LiPo 1S-3.7V-25/35C-3000mAh	Cell Structure 3 S 1 P

Calculate !

Figure. Propulsion system for tricopter



Basic Experiment

□ Configuration Procedure

(3) Calculate the parameters and performance of the multicopters .

The parameters and performance of the multicopters are obtained by clicking the “Calculate!” button on the website.



Figure. Tricopter performance



Basic Experiment

(4) Configuration examples for other types of multicopters







	Total Weight 1.5 kg	Frame Size 450 mm	Altitude 0 m	Air Temperature 25 °C	Aero Design medium
	Min. Battery Capacity 15%	Max. Takeoff Throttle 85%	FCU Max. Tilt Limit No Limit	FCU & Attaches Current 0.5 A	
	Motor Brand: DJI		Model: 2312E KV800		
	Propeller Brand DJI		Model: CFP 10x3.8		
	ESC Brand * Common...		Model max 30A		
	Battery Brand * Common...		Model LiPo 1S-3.7V-20/30C-3700mAh	Cell Structure 3 S 1 P	

Figure. Coaxial hexacopter configuration



Basic Experiment



Figure. Coaxial hexacopter performance



Basic Experiment







	Total Weight 1.5 kg	Frame Size 450 mm	Altitude 0 m	Air Temperature 25 °C	Aero Design medium
	Min. Battery Capacity 15%	Max. Takeoff Throttle 85%	FCU Max. Tilt Limit No Limit	FCU & Attaches Current 0.5 A	
	Motor Brand: DJI	Model: 2312E KV800			
	Propeller Brand DJI	Model: CFP 10x3.8			
	ESC Brand * Common...	Model max 30A			
	Battery Brand * Common...	Model LiPo 1S-3.7V-20/30C-3700mAh		Cell Structure 3 S 1 P	

Figure. Quadcopter configuration



Basic Experiment



Figure. Quadcopter performance



Basic Experiment







	Total Wei 1.5 kg	Frame Size 550 mm	Altitude 0 m	Air Temperature 25 °C	Aero Design mediu
	Min. Battery Capacity 15%	Max. Takeoff Throttle 85%	FCU Max. Tilt Limit No Limit	FCU & Attaches Current 0.5 A	
	Motor Brand: DJI		Model: 2312E KV800		
	Propeller Brand DJI		Model: CFP 10x3.8		
	ESC Brand * Common...		Model max 30A		
	Battery Brand * Common...		Model LiPo 1S-3.7V-20/30C-3700mAh	Cell Structure 3 S 1 P	

Figure. Hexacopter configuration



Basic Experiment



Figure. Hexacopter performance



Basic Experiment







	Total Wei 1.5 kg	Frame Size 550 mm	Altitude 0 m	Air Temperature 25 °C	Aero Design mediur
	Min. Battery Capacity 15%	Max. Takeoff Throttle 85%	FCU Max. Tilt Limit No Limit	FCU & Attaches Current 0.5 A	
	Motor Brand: DJI	Model: 2312E KV800			
	Propeller Brand DJI	Model: CFP 10x3.8			
	ESC Brand * Common...	Model max 30A			
	Battery Brand * Common...	Model LiPo 1S-3.7V-20/30C-3700mAh	Cell Structure 3 S 1 P		

Figure. Coaxial octocopter configuration



Basic Experiment



Figure. Coaxial octocopter performance



Basic Experiment







	Total Weight 1.5 kg	Frame Size 650 mm	Altitude 0 m	Air Temperature 25 °C	Aero Design medium
	Min. Battery Capacity 15%	Max. Takeoff Throttle 85%	FCU Max. Tilt Limit No Limit	FCU & Attaches Current 0.5 A	
	Motor Brand: DJI	Model: 2312E KV800			
	Propeller Brand DJI	Model: Quantum 8x6			
	ESC Brand * Common...	Model max 30A			
	Battery Brand * Common...	Model LiPo 1S-3.7V-65/100C-5000mAh		Cell Structure 3 S 1 P	

Figure. Octocopter configuration



Basic Experiment



Figure. Octocopter performance



Basic Experiment

□ Remarks

(1) Diagonal size is too small

When the “Propeller Brand” option in the website is chosen as “CFP 10×3.8” (i.e, the diameter is 10 in ≈ 25.4 mm), the minimum diagonal size for the tricopter is obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{diagonal size} &= 10 \times 25.4 / \sin(180^\circ / 3) \times 1.2 \\ &= 352 \text{ mm.} \end{aligned}$$



Basic Experiment

□ Remarks

(1) Diagonal size is too small

If the diagonal size is selected too small such as 100 mm, the website will return an error message.

An error message:

* The vehicle body frame does not match with the chosen propeller, please change the body frame of the propeller

	Total Weight 1.0 kg	Frame Size 100 mm	Altitude 0 m	Air Temperature 25 °C	Aero Design medium
	Min. Battery Capacity 15%	Max. Takeoff Throttle 85%	FCU Max. Tilt Limit No Limit	FCU & Attaches Current 0.5 A	
	Motor Brand: DJI	Model: 2212 KV920			
	Propeller Brand: DJI	Model: CFP 10x3.8			
	ESC Brand: * Common...	Model: max 30A			
	Battery Brand: * Common...	Model: LiPo 1S-3.7V-25/35C-3000mAh	Cell Structure: 3 S 1 P		

Error:
* The vehicle body frame doesn't match with the chosen propeller, please change the body frame or the propeller.

Calculate !

Figure. “Diagonal size is too small” error



Basic Experiment

□ Remarks

(2) Current is too large

An error message:

*** The motor current is excessive, please verify the limits (current, power, rpm) of the motor defined by the manufacturer.**

	Total Wei 1.0 kg	Frame Size 450 mm	Altitude 0 m	Air Temperature 25 °C	Aero Design mediur
	Min. Battery Capacity 15%	Max. Takeoff Throttle 85%	FCU Max. Tilt Limit No Limit	FCU & Attaches Current 0.5 A	
	Motor Brand: DJI	Model: 2212 KV920			
	Propeller Brand DJI	Model: CFP 10x3.8			
	ESC Brand * Common...	Model max 30A			
	Battery Brand * Common...	Model LiPo 1S-3.7V-25/35C-3000mAh	Cell Structure 5 S 1 P		
Error: * the motor current is excessive, please verify the limits (current, power, rpm) of the motor defined by the manufacturer.					Calculate !

Figure. “Current is too large” error



Analysis Experiment

□ Experimental Objective

■ Things to prepare

The experiment requires a quadcopter whose total weight is 1.5kg, and a scenario where the flight altitude is 50m and the local temperature is 25°C. The parameters of the propulsion system are listed in Table.

Table. Propulsion system parameters

Component	Parameters
Propeller	APC1045 ($D_p=10$ in, $H_p=4.5$ in, $B_p=2$), $C_T=0.0984$, $C_M=0.0068$
Motor	Sunnysky A2814-900 ($K_{V0}=900$ RPM/V, $R_m=0.08$ Ω , $W_{mMax}=335$ W, $I_{eMax} = 0.6$ A, $U_{m0} = 10$ V)
ESC	$I_{eMax}=30$ A, $R_e=0.008$ Ω
Battery	ACE ($C_b=4000$ mAh, $U_b=12$ V, $R_b=0.0084$ Ω , $K_b = 65$ C)



Analysis Experiment

□ Experimental Objectives

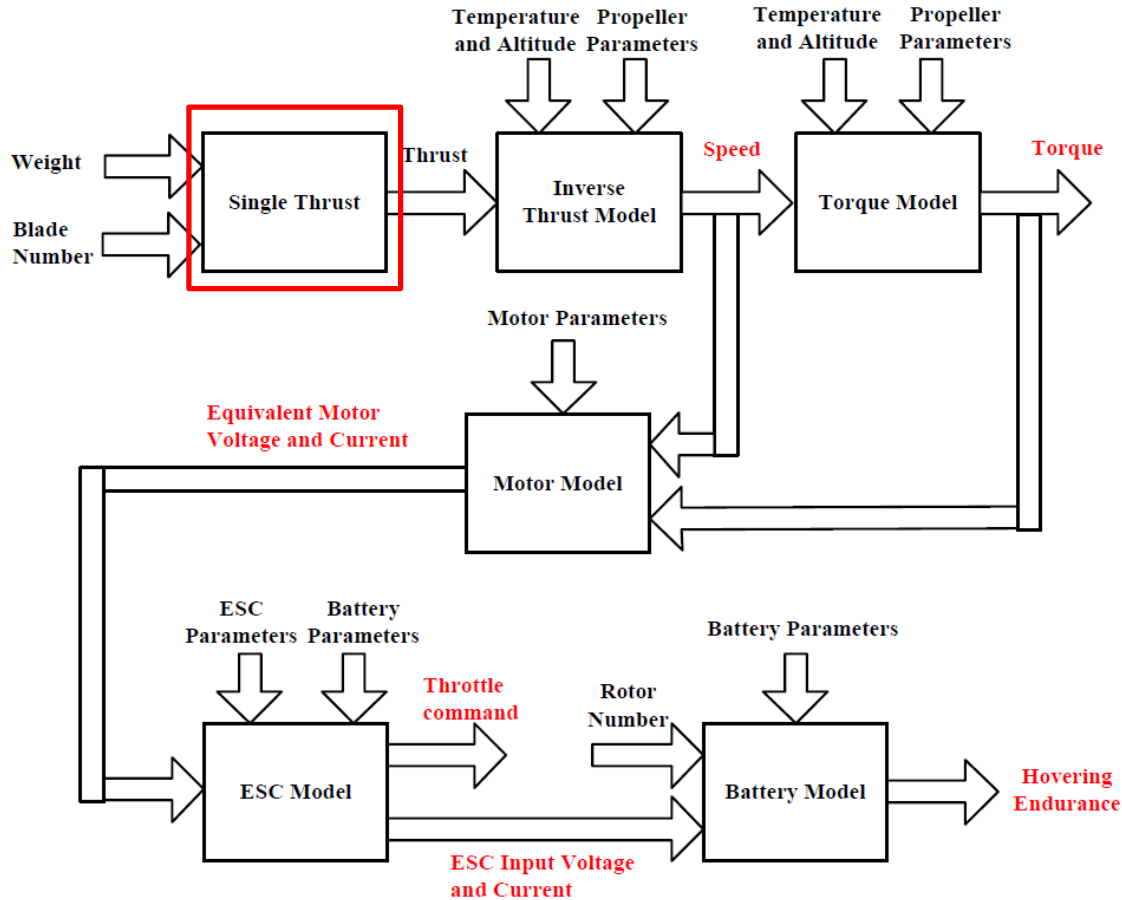
■ Objectives

- (1) Show a detailed process for calculating the hover endurance and compare the obtained result with the result from the multicopter performance evaluation website <https://flyeval.com/paper/>;
- (2) Calculate the hover endurance values under different temperatures (e.g., 0 °C , 10 °C , 20 °C , 30 °C , 40 °C) at different locations such as Beijing, Shanghai, Lhasa, and Changsha. Then, based on the obtained results, analyze the hover endurance with respect to altitude and temperature;
- (3) Analyze the hover endurance with respect to the size and number of propellers.



Analysis Experiment

□ Calculation Procedure for First Objective



(1) Calculate the thrust

The thrust generated by a single propeller is calculated based on the total weight of the quadcopter as follows

$$T = \frac{G}{n_r} = \frac{1.5 \times 9.8}{4} = 3.675\text{N}.$$



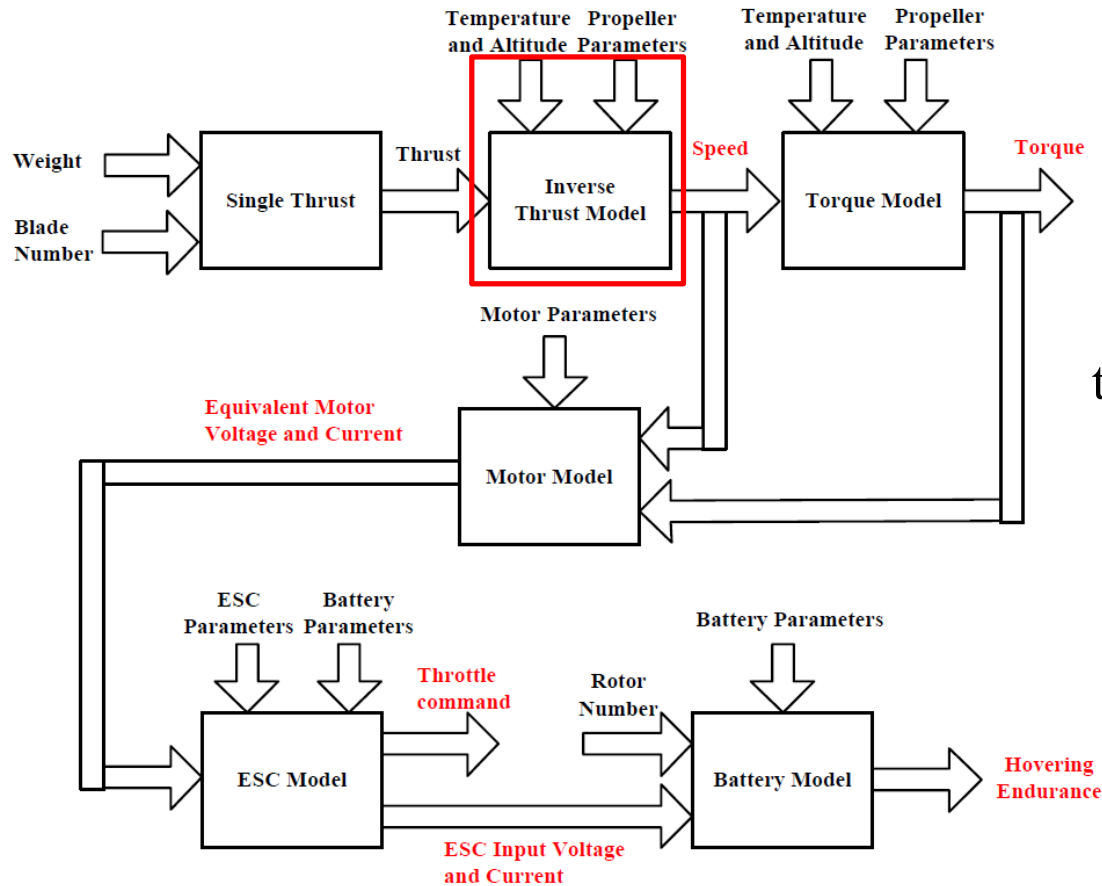
Analysis Experiment

□ Calculation Procedure for First Objective

(2) The motor speed N and the propeller torque M are calculated based on the thrust model

First of all, by using the flight altitude and the temperature, the atmospheric pressure is obtained as

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_a &= 101325 \left(1 - 0.0065 \frac{h}{273 + T_t} \right)^{5.2561} \\
 &= 101325 \left(1 - 0.0065 \frac{50}{273 + 25} \right)^{5.2561} \\
 &= 100745.52 \text{ Pa}
 \end{aligned}$$





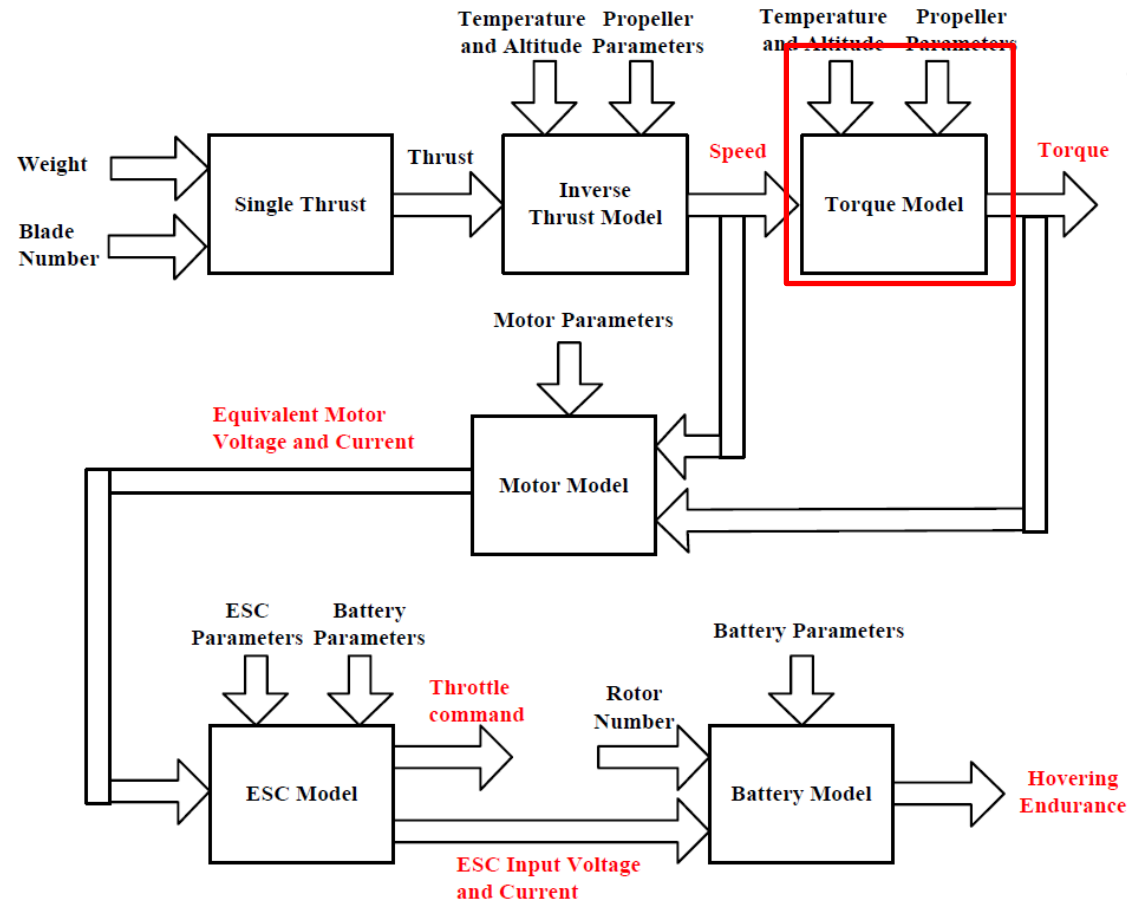
Analysis Experiment

□ Calculation Procedure for First Objective

(2) The motor speed N and the propeller torque M are calculated based on the thrust model

Then, by using the obtained atmospheric pressure, the air density is obtained as

$$\begin{aligned}\rho &= \frac{273P_a}{101325(273 + T_t)} \rho_0 \\ &= \frac{273 * 100745.52}{101325(273 + 25)} 1.293 \\ &= 1.178 \text{ kg/m}^3\end{aligned}$$





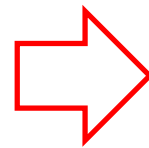
Analysis Experiment

□ Calculation Procedure for First Objective

(2) The motor speed N and the propeller torque M are calculated based on the thrust model

■ by using the air density and the parameters of the propeller, the motor speed is

$$\begin{aligned} N &= 60 \sqrt{\frac{T}{\rho D_p^4 C_T}} \\ &= 60 \sqrt{\frac{3.675}{1.178 (10 * 25.4 / 1000)^4 * 0.0984}} \\ &= 5236.51 \text{RPM} \end{aligned}$$

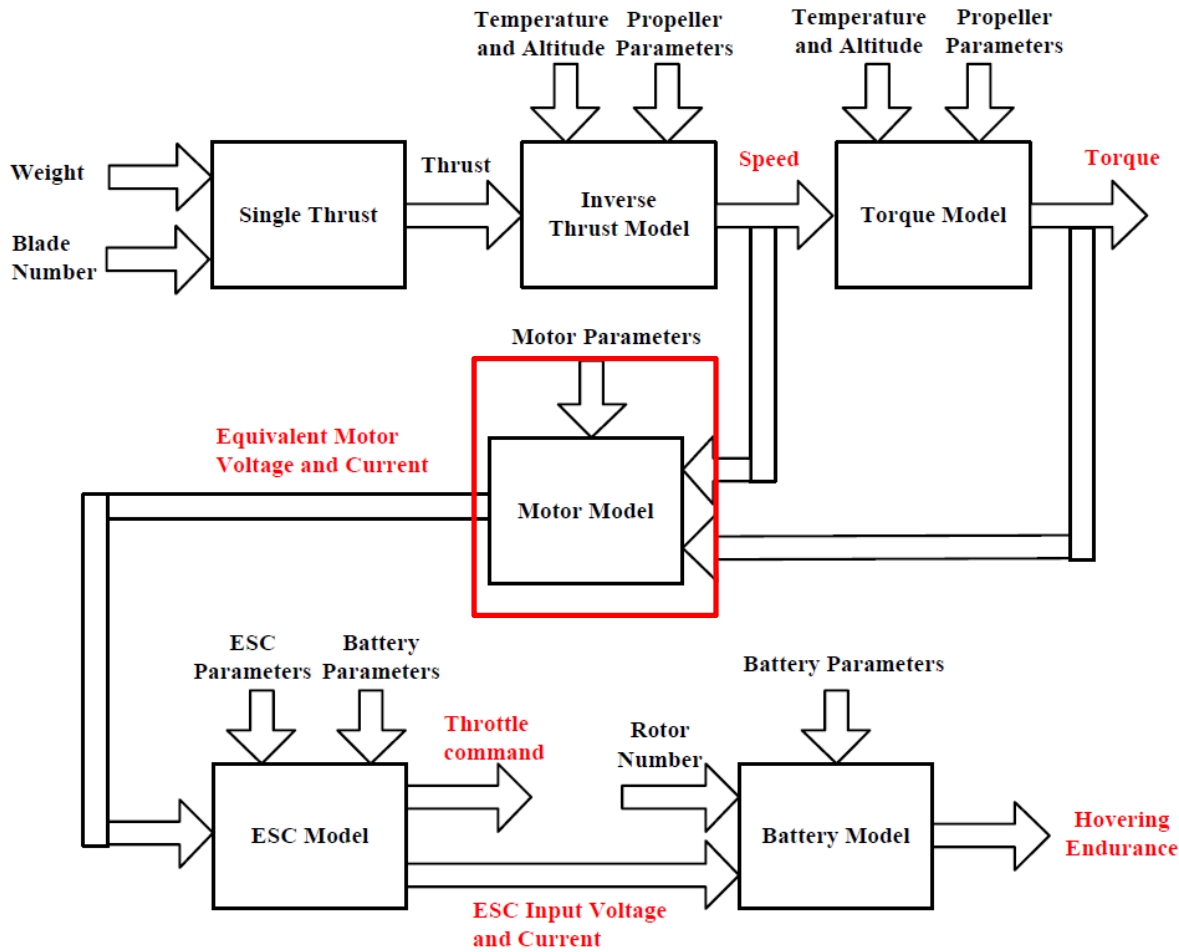


■ the torque of the propeller is

$$\begin{aligned} M &= \rho D_p^5 C_M \left(\frac{N}{60} \right)^2 \\ &= 1.178 * (10 * 25.4 / 1000)^5 * 0.0068 * \left(\frac{5236.51}{60} \right)^2 \\ &= 0.0645 \text{N} \cdot \text{m} \end{aligned}$$



Analysis Experiment



(3) The equivalent motor current I_m and the equivalent motor voltage U_m are calculated based on the motor model

$$I_m = \frac{MK_{V0}U_{m0}}{9.55(U_{m0} - I_{m0}R_m)} + I_{m0}$$

$$= \frac{0.0645 * 900 * 10}{9.55(10 - 0.6 * 0.08)} + 0.6$$

$$= 6.708A$$

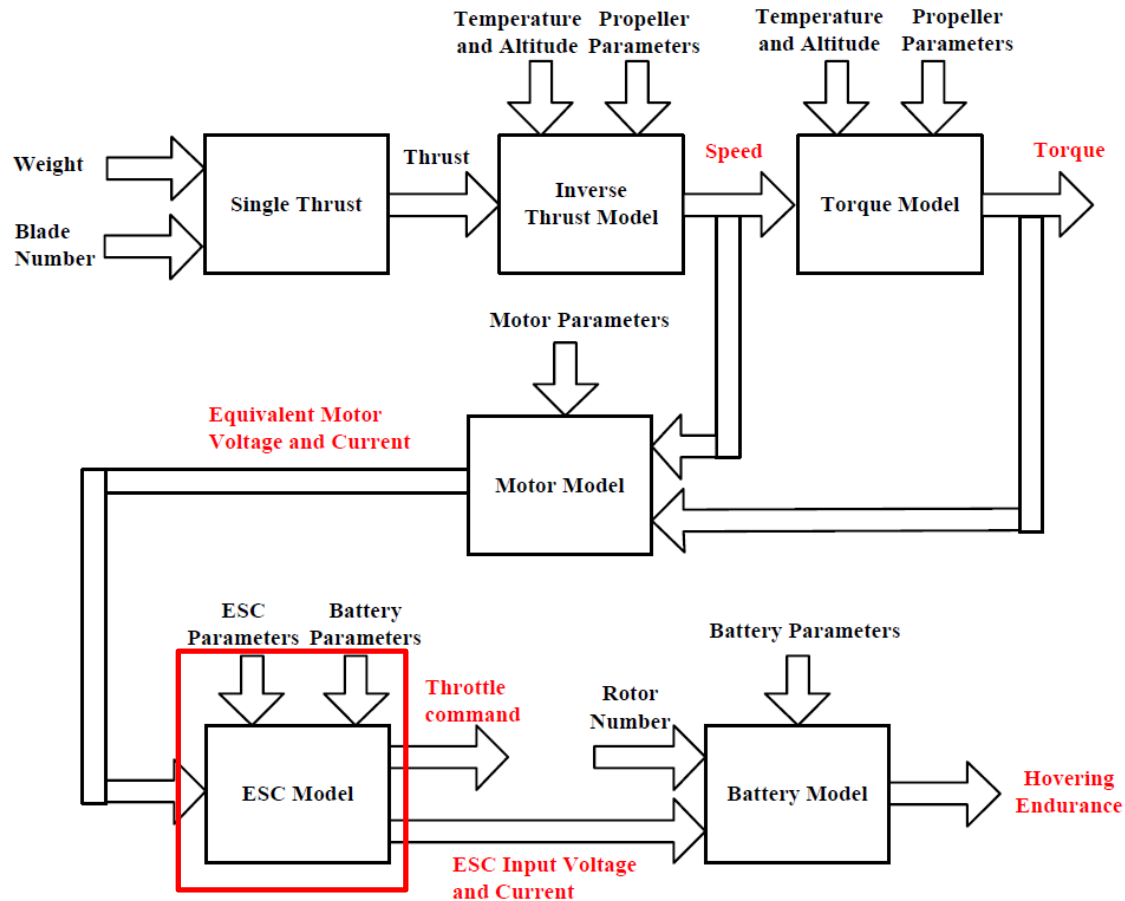
$$U_m = \left(\frac{MK_{V0}U_{m0}}{9.55(U_{m0} - I_{m0}R_m)} + I_{m0} \right) R_m + \frac{U_{m0} - I_{m0}R_m}{K_{V0}U_{m0}} N$$

$$= \left(\frac{0.0645 * 900 * 10}{9.55(10 - 0.6 * 0.08)} + 0.6 \right) * 0.08 + \frac{10 - 0.6 * 0.08}{900 * 10} 5236.51$$

$$= 6.327V$$



Analysis Experiment



(4) The ESC input

throttle : σ

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma &= \frac{U_m + I_m R_e}{U_b} \\ &= \frac{6.327 + 6.708 * 0.008}{12} \\ &= 0.532 \end{aligned}$$

the ESC input

current I_e :

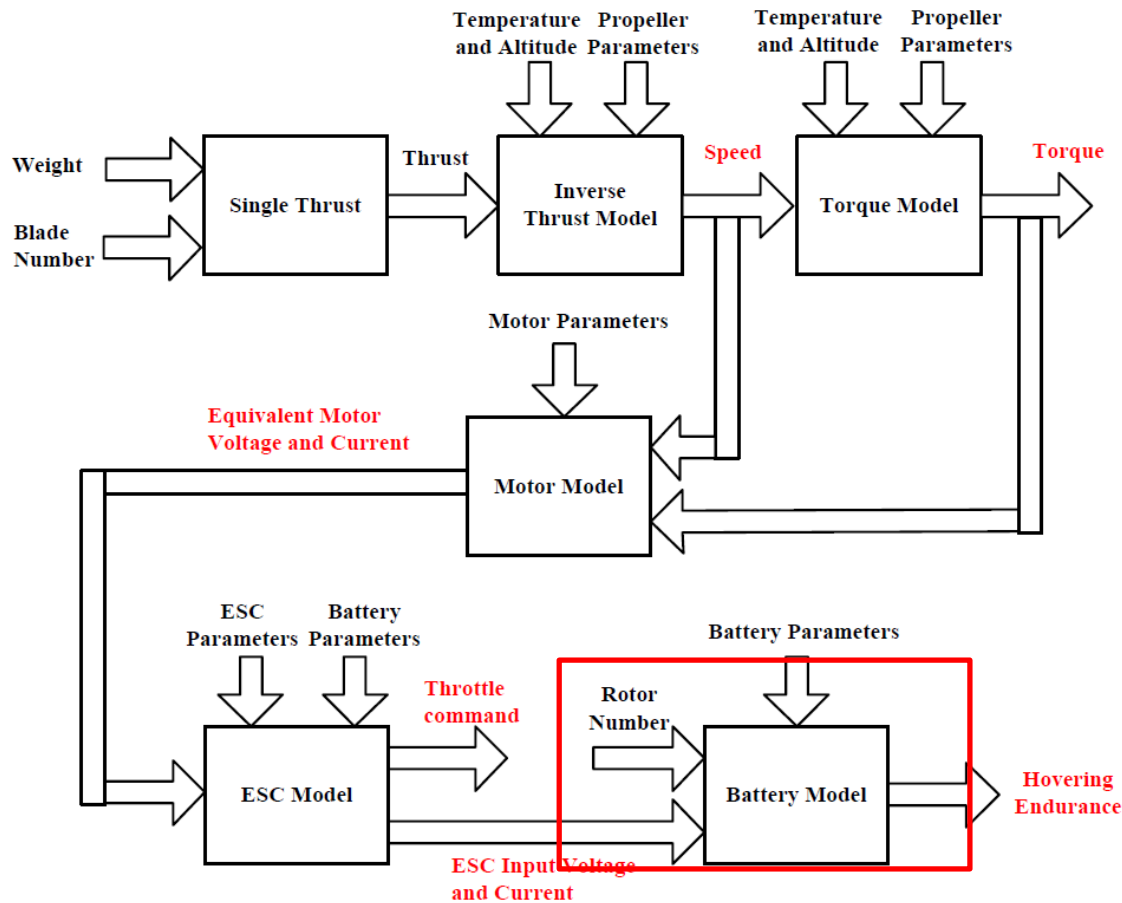
$$\begin{aligned} I_e &= \sigma I_m \\ &= 0.532 * 6.708 \\ &= 3.567 A \end{aligned}$$

the ESC input
voltage U_e :

$$\begin{aligned} U_e &= U_b - I_b R_b \\ &= 12 - 14.768 * 0.0084 \\ &= 11.876 V \end{aligned}$$



Analysis Experiment



(5) The hover endurance is calculated based on the battery capacity and the battery current model

■ the battery current I_b :

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_b &= n_r I_e + I_{\text{other}} \\
 &= 4 \times 3.567 + 0.5 \\
 &= 14.768 \text{ A}
 \end{aligned}$$

■ the minimum battery capacity is taken as 15% of the total capacity, hover endurance T_b :

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_b &= \frac{C_b - C_{\min}}{I_b} \times \frac{60}{1000} \\
 &= \frac{4000 - 4000 \times 0.15}{14.768} \times \frac{60}{1000} \\
 &= 13.8 \text{ min}
 \end{aligned}$$



Analysis Experiment

□ Calculation Procedure for First Objective

(6) The result calculated above is compared by using the multicopter performance evaluation website <https://flyeval.com/paper/>.







	Total Weight 1.5 kg	Frame Size 450 mm	Altitude 50 m	Air Temperature 25 °C	Aero Design medium	
	Min. Battery Capacity 15%	Max. Takeoff Throttle 85%	FCU Max. Tilt Limit No Limit	FCU & Attaches Current 0.5 A		
	Motor Brand: SunnySky	Model: Angel A2814-KV900				
	Propeller Brand APC	Model: 10x4.5MR				
	ESC Brand * Customized...					
	Constant Discharge Current 30 A	Max. Lipo Cells 3 S	Resistance (*Optional) 8 mΩ	Weight (*Optional) g		
	Battery Brand * Customized...					
	Cell Type Li-Po	Cell Structure 3 S	Capacity 4000 mAh	Max. Const. C 65 C	Resistance (*Optional) 8.4 mΩ	Weight (*Optional) g

Figure. Quadcopter configuration



Analysis Experiment

□ Calculation Procedure for First Objective

The obtained result is

Detail Information		
Hovering Performance :	Max. Throttle Performance :	Integral Performance :
Hovering Time : 13.8 min.	Flying Time : 2.9 min.	Normal Operation : 10.3 min.
Throttle Percentage : 53.7 %	Total Lift : 41.4 N	Total Weight : 1.5 kg
Motor Current : 3.56 A	Motor Current : 17.7 A	Remaining Load : 1.76 kg
Motor Speed : 5235.8 rpm	Motor Speed : 8788.1 rpm	Max. Takeoff Altitude : 6.14 km
Motor Power : 35.2 W	Motor Power : 166.6 W	Max. Tilt Angle : 62.6 °
Battery Voltage : 11.9 V	Battery Voltage : 11.4 V	Max. Forward Speed : 14.7 m/s
Battery Current : 14.7 A	Battery Current : 71 A	Max. Flying Range : 4.43 km
Power Efficiency : 79.6 %	Power Efficiency : 78.3 %	Wind Resistance : 5 Degree

It can be observed that the calculated hover endurance is consistent with the result on the multicopter performance evaluation website.

Figure. Results of the multicopter performance evaluation website



Analysis Experiment

□ Analysis Procedure for Second Objective

(1) Hover endurance with respect to altitude

The basic configuration parameters of our chosen testing multicopter are shown in Figure.







	Total Weight 1.5 kg	Frame Size 450 mm	Altitude 4 m	Air Temperature 25 °C	Aero Design medium
	Min. Battery Capacity 15%	Max. Takeoff Throttle 85%	FCU Max. Tilt Limit No Limit	FCU & Attaches Current 0.5 A	
	Motor Brand: DJI	Model: 2212 KV920			
	Propeller Brand DJI	Model: Turnigy slow fly 9.4x5			
	ESC Brand * Common...	Model max 30A			
	Battery Brand * Common...	Model LiPo 1S-3.7V-20/30C-5000mAh	Cell Structure 3 S 1 P		

Figure. Multicopter configuration for study on hover endurance with respect to altitude



Analysis Experiment

□ Analysis Procedure for Second Objective

(1) Hover endurance with respect to altitude

With the other configurations unchanged, the table presents the changing trend of hover endurance in different cities.

Table. Hover endurance with respect to altitude

Site	Altitude/m	Hover endurance/min
Shanghai	4	16.5
Beijing	43.5	16.5
Changsha	500	16.1
Lhasa	3658	13.5

The higher the altitude is, the shorter the hover endurance will be.



Analysis Experiment

□ Analysis Procedure for Second Objective

(2) Hover endurance with respect to temperature

Table. Hover endurance with respect to temperature

Temperature/°C	Hove endurance/min
0	17.1
10	16.8
20	16.6
30	16.3
40	16.1

The higher the temperature is, the shorter the hover endurance is.



Analysis Experiment

□ Analysis Procedure for Third Objective

(3) Hover endurance with respect to propeller size

Table. Hover endurance with respect to propeller size

Propeller size(in)	Hove endurance(min)
10	17
9.4	16.5
9	15.9
8	14.5

The larger the propeller is, the longer the hover endurance is.



Analysis Experiment

□ Analysis Procedure for Third Objective

(4) Hover endurance with respect to the number of propellers

Table. Hover endurance with respect to the number of propellers

Type	Hover endurance/min
Octocopter	18.4
Coaxial octocopter	17.2
Hexacopter	16.8
Quadcopter	14.5
Coaxial hexacopter	15.5
Tricopter	too heavy to take off

When the number of propellers is equal, the hover endurance is shorter for a coaxial multicopter. In general, when the total weight is the same, the more the number of propellers is, the longer the hover endurance is.



Design Experiment

□ Experimental Objective

■ Things to prepare

The multicopter performance evaluation website <https://flyeval.com/paper/>.

■ Objectives

(1) Design a multicopter. The altitude is 0 m, the local temperature is 25° C, the load weight is 1.0kg, the weight of airframe, autopilot, and other accessories is also 1.0kg, the total weight is lighter than 5kg, the circumferential circle radius is smaller than 39.37 in (approximately 1 m), the hover endurance is longer than 15min, and the hover throttle is less than 65% of the full throttle;



Design Experiment

■ Objectives

(2) The configuration parameters and basic flight performance parameters of the multicopters should be listed and compared with the results from multicopter the performance evaluation website <https://flyeval.com/paper/>.



Design Experiment

□ Experimental Design

(1) Choose to design a quadcopter

A quadcopter is designed to meet the objectives in the design experiment. The design procedure is shown on the right.

Select the motor based on the thrust of a single propeller

Select ESC and the battery based on the maximum current of the motor

Determine the size of the propeller



Design Experiment

□ Experimental Design

(2) Determine the thrust of a single propeller

When the quadcopter is hovering, the thrust of a single propeller is

$$T_{h,up} = \frac{5}{4} \times 9.8 = 12.25N.$$

When the propulsion system weight is not considered, the propeller should provide at least the total weight of the payload and the airframe, autopilot, and accessories, etc., which is 2 kg. Thus, the thrust of the single propeller is

$$T_{h,down} = \frac{2}{4} \times 9.8 = 4.9N.$$

To leave a safety control margin, the maximum thrust of a single propeller is

$$(T_{max,down}, T_{max,up}) = (T_{h,down}, T_{h,up}) / 0.65 = (7.54N, 18.85N)$$

Only motors with thrust between **7.54N~18.85N** are considered.



Design Experiment

□ Experimental Design

(3) Calculate the maximum size of the propeller

Based on the maximum size limit of the quadcopter, the following relationship is obtained as

$$r_{\max} + R < 1 \text{ m}$$

namely,

$$r_{\max} + \frac{r_{\max}}{\sin(180^\circ / 4)} < 1 \text{ m.}$$

Then $r_{\max} < 0.414\text{m}$. In order to leave a safety margin, the maximum size of propeller has to satisfy as

$$r_p = r_{\max} / (1.05 \sim 1.2) = 345 \sim 394 \text{ mm.}$$



Design Experiment

□ Experimental Design

(4) Select a motor

Appropriate motors are selected by browsing the manufacturer's official website, such as T-MOTOR motors. Readers can go to the T-MOTOR official website:

<http://uav-en.tmotor.com/>

to select multirotor and the MN4014 motor in the MN series is selected.

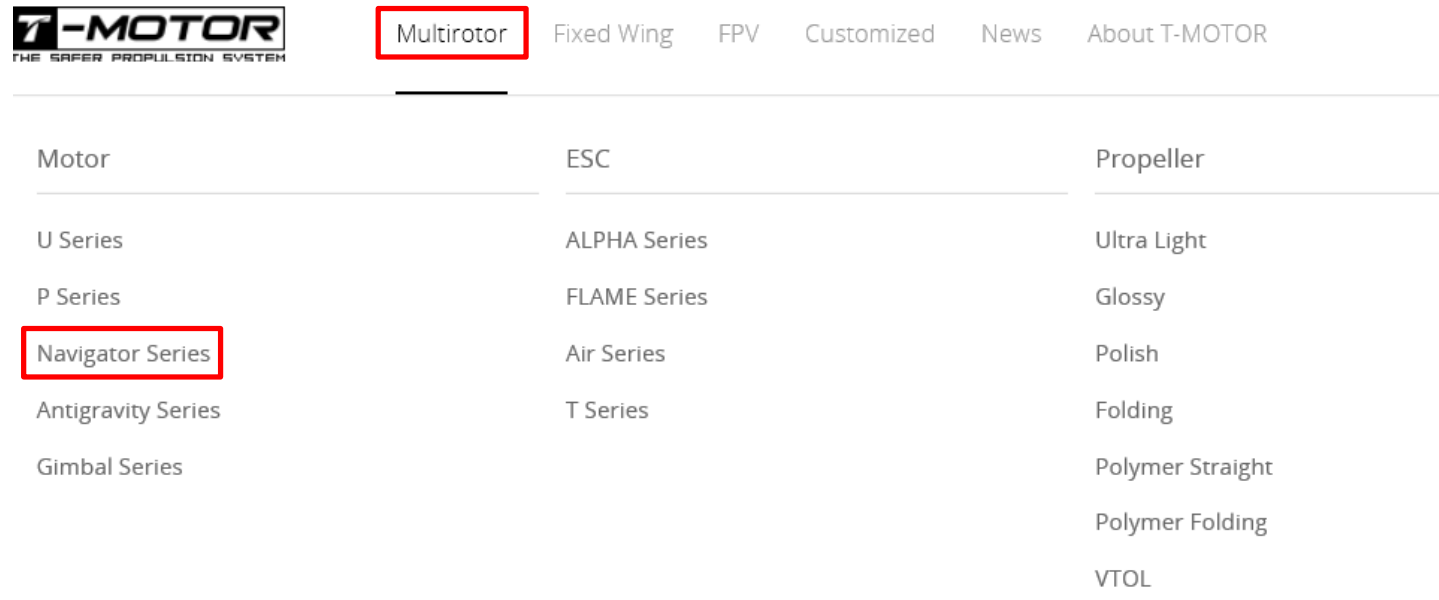


Figure. T-MOTOR motor selection



Design Experiment

□ Experimental Design

Load Testing Data									
Ambient Temperature		/			Voltage			DC Power Supplier	
Item No.	Voltage (V)	Prop	Throttle	Current (A)	Power (W)	Thrust (G)	RPM	Efficiency (G/W)	Operating Temperature (°C)
MN4014 KV330	22.2	T-MOTOR 15*5CF	50%	3.6	79.92	830	3900	10.39	45
			65%	5.9	130.98	1150	4600	8.78	
			75%	7.8	173.16	1430	5100	8.26	
			85%	10.1	224.22	1690	5600	7.54	
			100%	11.9	264.18	1920	6000	7.27	
		T-MOTOR 16*5.4CF	50%	4.3	95.46	950	3700	9.95	50
			65%	7	155.40	1420	4400	9.14	
			75%	9.6	213.12	1750	4900	8.21	
			85%	12.5	277.50	2060	5400	7.42	
			100%	14.7	326.34	2390	5600	7.32	
		T-MOTOR 17*5.8CF	50%	4.7	104.34	1050	3400	10.06	55
			65%	8	177.60	1580	4100	8.90	
			75%	10.7	237.54	1970	4600	8.29	
			85%	14.4	319.68	2300	5100	7.19	
			100%	17	377.40	2600	5400	6.89	

In“Load Testing Data”, readers can observe the thrust of the motor under different throttle values. When the voltage is 22.2V and the propeller is T-MOTOR 15 × 5 CF, the max thrust is 1.92 kg(18.82N).

Figure. Motor specifications



Design Experiment

□ Experimental Design

(5) Select an ESC



AIR 40A

\$39.99

Available points: 300 | Points reward: 39

- Special core program
- Special optimized firmware
- Highly-intelligent and adaptive
- Twisted-pair design

1

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SPECIFICATIONS

Model	Con,Current	Peak Current (10S)	BEC	Lipo	programmable Item	Weight	Size(L*W*H)
AIR 40A	40A	60A	NO	2-6S	Timing (Intermediate/High)	26g	55.6mm*25.2mm*11.3mm

If “T-MOTOR ESC” is selected and the maximum current of the selected motor is 25 A, then the “AIR 40A ESC” with a continuous current of 40A is selected.

Figure. T-MOTOR ESC specifications



Design Experiment

□ Experimental Design

(6) Select a propeller

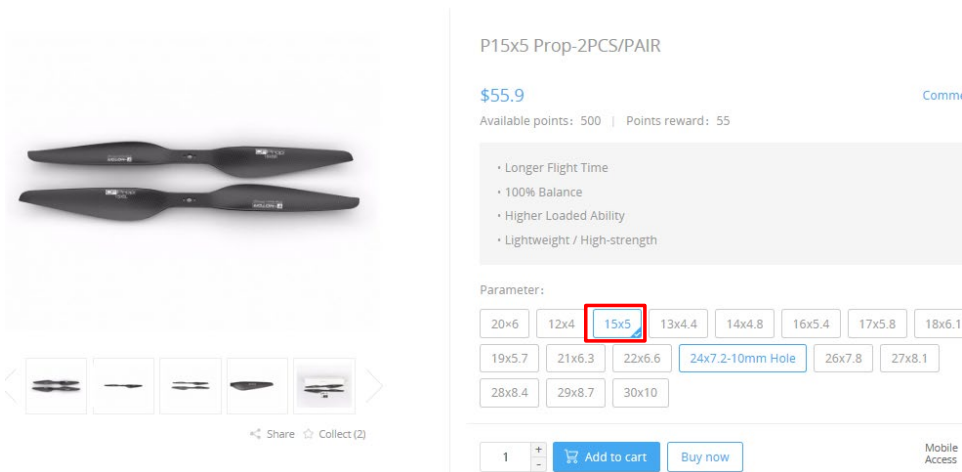


Figure. T-MOTOR propellers

Specifications			
Diameter/Pitch	15" *5 (381mm*127mm)	Working Temp	-40°C ~ 65°C
Weight (single propeller)	26.5g	Storage Temp	-10°C ~ 50°C
Material	CF+Epoxy	Storage Humidity	<85%
Surface Treatment	Polished	Optimum RPM	5200-7000 RPM/min
Propeller type	2blades-integrated	Thrust Limitation	6kg

Figure. A T-MOTOR propeller's specifications

Here, the T-MOTOR propeller is selected. Moreover, according to the matches being offered, the P15×5 propeller is selected. From the basic parameters, the weight of a single propeller is 26.5g.



Design Experiment

(7) Select a battery

Here, if a GENSACE 12000-mAh battery is selected, according to the motor, ESC and propeller selected above, the total weight is as follows

$$G = (2 + (0.171 + 0.026 + 0.0265) \times 4 + 1.46) \times 9.8 = 42.6692 \text{ N}$$

Then, the thrust provided by a single propeller is as follows

$$T_h = \frac{G}{4} \times 9.8 = 10.6673 \text{ N.}$$

The throttle at this time is less than 65% of the full throttle. Then, it can be determined that the thrust is 10.662N and the motor current is 5.78 A, by using simple linear interpolation between 50% and 65% of the throttle.

The hover endurance is calculated as

$$T = \frac{C_b - C_{\min}}{I_b} \cdot \frac{60}{1000} = \frac{0.85 \times 16000}{5.78 \times 4 + 0.5} * 0.06 = 25.9 \text{ min}$$

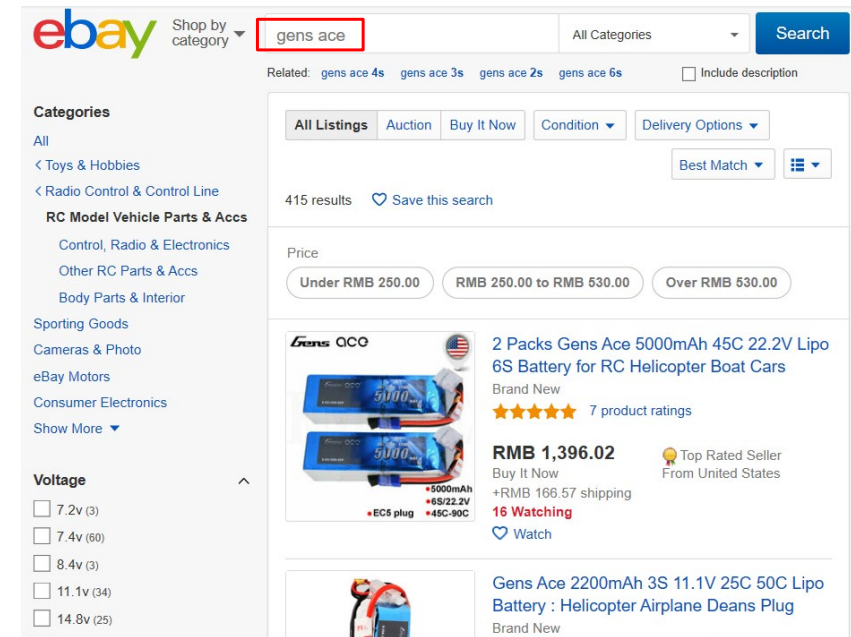


Figure. GENS ACE batteries



Design Experiment

□ Experimental Design

(8) Recalculate the diagonal size

The diagonal size is recalculated based on the size of propeller

$$2R = \frac{2 \times r_p}{\sin\left(\frac{180}{n_r}\right)} = \frac{15 \times 25.4}{\sin(180/4)} = 539\text{mm}$$

To leave a safety margin, a diagonal size of 600mm is adopted.



Design Experiment

□ Experimental Design

(9) Compare with the flight performance calculated by the performance evaluation website.







	Frame+L 2.0 kg	Frame Size 600 mm	Altitude 0 m	Air Temperature 25 °C	Aero Design mediu
	Min. Battery Capacity 15%	Max. Takeoff Throttle 85%	FCU Max. Tilt Limit No Limit	FCU & Attaches Current 0.5 A	
	Motor Brand: T-MOTOR	Model: MN4014 KV330			
	Propeller Brand T-MOTOR	Model: 15x5 CF			
	ESC Brand T-MOTOR	Model AIR 40A			
	Battery Brand ACE	Model LiPo TATTU 6S-22.2V-15C-12...	Battery Assembly 1 S 1 P		

Figure. Multicopter configuration for design experiment



Design Experiment

□ Experimental Design

Detail Information

Hovering Performance :

Hovering Time	: 22.5 min.
Throttle Percentage	: 63.6 %
Motor Current	: 6.69 A
Motor Speed	: 4623.5 rpm
Motor Power	: 132.2 W
Battery Voltage	: 23.7 V
Battery Current	: 27.2 A
Power Efficiency	: 80.9 %

Max. Throttle Performance :

Flying Time	: 7 min.
Total Lift	: 94.3 N
Motor Current	: 21.8 A
Motor Speed	: 6716.3 rpm
Motor Power	: 417.8 W
Battery Voltage	: 22.9 V
Battery Current	: 87.3 A
Power Efficiency	: 79.8 %

Integral Performance :

Normal Operation	: 17.8 min.
Total Weight	: 4.56 kg
Remaining Load	: 2.8 kg
Max. Takeoff Altitude	: 3.85 km
Max. Tilt Angle	: 51.7 °
Max. Forward Speed	: 12.4 m/s
Max. Flying Range	: 8.5 km
Wind Resistance	: 4 Degree

Figure. Flight performance of designed multicopter

It can be concluded that the hover endurance calculated by the website is close to the hover endurance by estimated. The remaining load of the aircraft is still very large and about 5.44kg. **If want to continue to increase the battery life, the readers can increase the battery capacity without changing the overall structure.**



Summary

- (1) The performance evaluation of a multicopter can be easily obtained through the multicopter performance evaluation website <https://flyeval.com/paper/>. After the propulsion system and flight environment are set, performance results can be obtained, such as the hover endurance, available payload, one-way flight distance, and maximum forward flight speed.
- (2) Based on the propeller, motor, ESC, and battery model we have established, the hover endurance of a multicopter can be estimated with the given propeller parameters, motor parameters, ESC parameters, and battery parameters. Under the same condition, according to the above model analysis, it can be inferred that the higher the altitude or the higher the temperature is, the shorter the hover endurance is; the larger the radius of the propeller or the more the number of propellers is, the longer the hover endurance is.



Summary

- (3) Given the flight environment of a multicopter, load capacity, maximum weight, maximum size, and minimum hover endurance, readers can select the propulsion system that meets their design requirements based on the product data provided by the manufacturers of the motor, ESC, propeller, and battery.
- (4) The following modeling experiments (in Chapter 6) are based on the parameters generated by this experiment.

If you have any question, please go to <https://rflysim.com> for your information.



Resource

All course PPTs, videos, and source code will be released on our website

<https://rflysim.com/en>

For more detailed content, please refer to the textbook:

Quan Quan, Xunhua Dai, Shuai Wang. *Multicopter Design and Control Practice*. Springer, 2020

<https://www.springer.com/us/book/9789811531378>

If you encounter any problems, please post question at Github page

<https://github.com/RflySim/RflyExpCode/issues>

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https://rflysim.com/en/4_Pro/Advanced.html



Thanks