

Research Article

Airborne Integrated Navigation System Based on SINS/GPS/TAN/EOAN

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Considering the drawbacks that GPS signal is susceptible to obstacles and TAN becomes useless in some area when without any terrain data or with a featureless terrain field, to realize long-distance and high-precision navigation, a navigation system based on SINS/GPS/TAN/EOAN is presented. When GPS signal is available, GPS is used to correct errors of SINS; when GPS is unavailable, a terrain selection method based on the entropy weighted gray relational decision-making method is used to distinguish terrain into matchable areas and unmatchable areas; then, for the matchable areas, TAN is used to correct errors of SINS, for the unmatchable areas, EOAN is used to correct errors of SINS. The principles of SINS, GPS, TAN, and EOAN are analyzed, the mathematic models of SINS/GPS, SINS/TAN, and SINS/EOAN are constructed, and finally the federated Kalman filter is used to fuse navigation information. Simulation results show that the trajectory of SINS/GPS/TAN/EOAN is close to the ideal one in both matchable area or unmatchable area and whose navigation errors are obviously reduced, which is important for the realization of long-time and high-precision positioning.

1. Introduction

The Strapdown Inertial Navigation System (SINS) is an autonomous navigation system, which neither relies on any external information nor radiates energy to the outside world [1]. Besides, it has the advantages of high precision, good concealment, no susceptibility to interference, and so on. However, due to its navigation characteristics, the error of SINS inevitably grows with time. To realize long-distance and high-precision navigation, several aided navigation systems are used to correct its errors.

Global Positioning System (GPS) is a satellite-based radio navigation system that can provide accurate velocity and position information [2, 3]. It has advantages of high precision, short observation time, and so on. However, it is susceptible to interference, the signals might be blocked and attenuated, and when GPS information is unavailable, the error of SINS is unable to be corrected.

Terrain aided navigation system is an ideal auxiliary navigation method, which is based on terrain elevation characteristics [4, 5]. The error of TAN is not accumulated while it has advantages of autonomy, concealment, continuity, and so on. However, it cannot achieve good effect in the areas where the terrain is flat or is of less terrain features. So, to make full use of TAN, it is necessary to distinguish terrain into matchable areas and unmatchable areas by measuring terrain feature parameters [6–9]. A novel selection criteria based on entropy weighted gray relational decision-making is used to divide terrain into matchable areas and unmatchable areas, in which the influences of terrain parameters such as standard deviation, roughness, entropy, and correlation coefficient are comprehensively considered.

Electro-optical Aided Navigation (EOAN) System is based on image matching technology that can provide position information [10]. It has advantages of high precision and strong anti-interference ability. For the area where

there is less of terrain information, EOAN can be used to correct errors of SINS [11].

Integration navigation technology [12–15] has become one of the key issues because of its capability of overcoming the drawbacks of single navigation method as above [16, 17]. And it is necessary to research multisensor fusion technologies [18]. In the multisensor information fusion system, distributed filters have attracted more and more attention of researchers [19, 20]. The federated Kalman filter, which is one kind of the distributed filtering technique, is proposed by Carlson, and it has been widely used in multi-information fusion because of its flexibility and fault tolerance [15, 21–24].

The ideal of the integrated navigation system is shown as Figure 1. For the areas where GPS is available, GPS is used to correct errors of SINS; for the areas where GPS is unavailable but is of full terrain information, TAN is used to correct errors of SINS; and for the areas where GPS is unavailable and is of less terrain information, EOAN is used to correct errors of SINS.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, terrain parameters are described and the selection method is introduced. In Section 3, the principles of SINS, GPS, TAN, and EOAN are analyzed and the mathematic models of SINS/GPS, SINS/TAN, and SINS/EOAN are constructed. In Section 4, the federated Kalman filter is proposed. In Section 5, several tests are conducted to evaluate the performance of SINS/GPS/TAN/EOAN with FKF. And conclusions are made in Section 6.

2. Terrain Selection Method

2.1. Terrain Parameters. The terrain data is generally stored in the form of grid matrix. Assume that

- (A) The exemplified terrain has $m \times n$ grids
- (B) The coordinates of the grid point is (i, j)
- (C) The height of the grid points is $h(i, j)$

Terrain parameters such as standard deviation, roughness, entropy, and correlation coefficient can be defined as follows:

2.1.1. Standard Deviation. The terrain standard deviation reflects the range of terrain elevation deviating from the average value. It is a macroparameter reflecting the severity of terrain overall fluctuation. And it can be defined as follows:

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{m(n-1)} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n [h(i, j) - h_{ave}]^2}, \quad h_{ave} = \frac{1}{mn} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n h(i, j), \quad (1)$$

where h_{ave} means the average value of terrain elevation.

2.1.2. Correlation Coefficient. Terrain correlation coefficient is a characteristic parameter used to reflect terrain correlation, and it can be defined as follows:

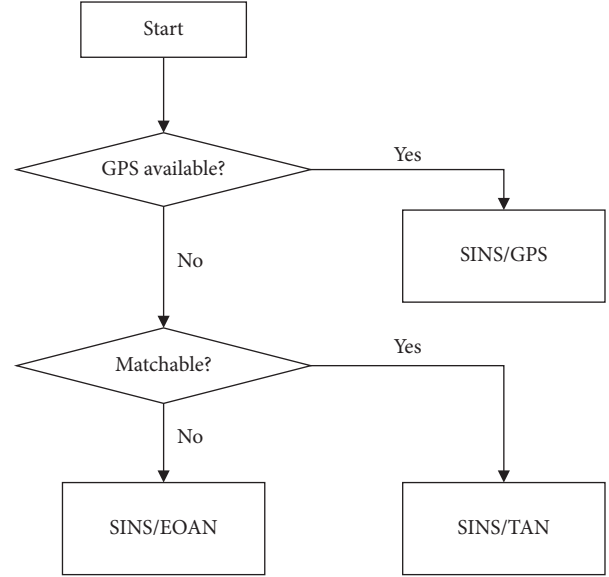


FIGURE 1: Airborne integrated navigation system.

$$R = \frac{1}{2} (R_{long} + R_{lati}),$$

$$R_{long} = \frac{1}{n(m-1)\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \sum_{j=1}^n [h(i, j) - h_{ave}] \bullet [h(i+1, j) - h_{ave}],$$

$$R_{lati} = \frac{1}{n(m-1)\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} [h(i, j) - h_{ave}] \bullet [h(i, j+1) - h_{ave}], \quad (2)$$

where R_{long} means correlation coefficient of longitude direction, which reflects the correlation degree in latitude direction of terrain profile in longitude direction, and R_{lati} means correlation coefficient of latitude, which reflects the correlation degree in longitude direction of terrain profile in latitude direction.

2.1.3. Roughness. Terrain roughness reflects the smoothness of terrain and is a characteristic parameter used to describe the local undulation, and it can be defined as follows:

$$r = \frac{1}{2} (r_{long} + r_{lati}),$$

$$r_{long} = \frac{1}{n(m-1)} \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \sum_{j=1}^n |h(i, j) - h(i+1, j)|, \quad (3)$$

$$r_{lati} = \frac{1}{m(n-1)} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} |h(i, j) - h(i, j+1)|,$$

where r_{long} represents the roughness of longitude and r_{lati} represents the roughness of latitude.

2.1.4. Terrain Height Entropy. Terrain height entropy is a characteristic parameter reflecting the amount of information. The more obvious the terrain height changes, the

smaller the height entropy. The height entropy can be described as follows:

$$H_f = - \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n p(i, j) \log p(i, j), \quad p(i, j) = \frac{h(i, j)}{\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n h(i, j)}, \quad (4)$$

where $p(i, j)$ means the normalized height value.

2.2. Entropy Weighted Gray Relational Decision-Making. Different parameters have different effects on the abundance of terrain information. Under certain conditions, the smaller the height entropy and the correlation coefficient are, the more abundant the terrain is and the greater the adaptability is. Conversely, the bigger the standard deviation and the roughness are, the more abundant the terrain is and the greater the adaptability is. Therefore, it is necessary to take all parameters into consideration and adopt a method which is able to fuse multifeatures. Assume that $T = (\sigma, r, H_f, R)$ is a feature vector after fused, according to which the adaptability of the terrain can be researched and a more comprehensive selection method is obtained.

2.2.1. Construction of Decision Matrix. Assume that the number of terrain candidate areas is m , which are X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m , and the number of feature parameters in every candidate area is n , which are G_1, G_2, \dots, G_n . The property of candidate area in parameter is x_{ij} , and the decision matrix can be obtained:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & \dots & x_{1n} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & \dots & x_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{m1} & x_{m2} & \dots & x_{mn} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

2.2.2. Normalized Matrix. Regarding correlation coefficient and height entropy as cost indicators and standard deviation and roughness as benefit indicators, the decision matrix $Y = (y_{ij})_{m \times n}$ can be normalized as follows:

$$\begin{cases} y_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij} - \min_i x_{ij}}{\max_i x_{ij} - \min_i x_{ij}} \text{ (benefit indicators),} \\ y_{ij} = \frac{\max_i x_{ij} - x_{ij}}{\max_i x_{ij} - \min_i x_{ij}} \text{ (cost indicators).} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

2.2.3. Grey Relational Matrix. Assume that the optimal solution of indicators is y_j^* , $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, the reference sequence consisting of y_j^* , and can be presented as $y_0(j) = \{y_j^* | j = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$. Making $y_i(j) = \{y_{ij} | j = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$, ($i = 1, 2, \dots, m$) to be comparison sequence, the correlation coefficient of y_i and y_0 in indicator can be calculated as follows:

$$\xi_i(j) = \frac{\Delta_{\min} + \rho \Delta_{\max}}{\Delta_{i0}(j) + \rho \Delta_{\max}}, \quad (7)$$

where $\Delta_{\min} = \min_j \min_i |y_0(j) - y_i(j)|$ and $\Delta_{\max} = \max_j \max_i |y_0(j) - y_i(j)|$, respectively, means the minimum value and the maximum value of absolute differences of comparison sequence. $\Delta_{i0}(j) = |y_0(j) - y_i(j)|$ represents the absolute differences of comparison sequence and ρ is the resolution coefficient, where $0 < \rho < 1$. Assume that $\rho = 0.5$.

The gray relational matrix can be as follows:

$$\xi = \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1(1) & \xi_1(2) & \dots & \xi_1(n) \\ \xi_2(1) & \xi_2(2) & \dots & \xi_2(n) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \xi_m(1) & \xi_m(2) & \dots & \xi_m(n) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (8)$$

2.2.4. Weight Calculation of Entropy

(A) The calculation of entropy requires logarithm, to avoid meaningless data, the data in the normalized matrix can be translated by adding 1, and the contribution of terrain i to parameter j can be calculated as follows:

$$f_{ij} = \frac{y_{ij} + 1}{\sum_{i=1}^m (y_{ij} + 1)}. \quad (9)$$

(B) The entropy E_j can be used to represent the total contribution of all terrains to indicator j :

$$E_j = -k \sum_{i=1}^m f_{ij} \ln f_{ij}, \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, n), \quad (10)$$

where $k > 0$, and assume that $k = 1/\ln m$, $E_j \in [0, 1]$. For conditions that the contributions of each terrain to indicator j is consistent, E_j tends to be 1, and the indicator is useless in the decision-making, and the weight value can be 0. Reversely, for conditions that the contributions of each terrain to indicator j are quietly different, the indicator is more useful to decision-making, and the weight value should be lager.

(C) Define g_j as the difference coefficient of contribution of terrains to indicator j , and the indicator weight can be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} g_j &= 1 - E_j, \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, n), \\ w_j &= \frac{g_j}{\sum_{j=1}^n g_j}, \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, n). \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

2.2.5. Comprehensive Evaluation Value of Gray Correlation Degree. The comprehensive evaluation value of gray correlation degree of terrain X_i is as follows:

$$D_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \xi_i(j) w_j, \quad (12)$$

The comprehensive evaluation values can be sorted; the bigger the evaluation value is, the higher the adaptability of the terrain is.

3. Mathematical Model

3.1. Error Model of SINS. Here, we define the navigation coordinates frames as an east-north-vertical geography coordinates frames. The position errors, velocity errors, attitude angle errors, gyro drift, and accelerometer bias are formed as the state vector. The state vector is determined by

$$X_{\text{SINS}} = [\delta L \ \delta \lambda \ \delta V_E \ \delta V_N \ \varphi_E \ \varphi_N \ \varphi_U \ \nabla_{bx} \ \nabla_{by} \ \varepsilon_{bx} \ \varepsilon_{by} \ \varepsilon_{bz}]^T, \quad (13)$$

where δL and $\delta \lambda$ represent the position errors, δV_E and δV_N are east and north velocity errors, φ_E , φ_N , and φ_U are misalignment angles of pitch, roll, and yaw, ∇_{bx} and ∇_{by} represent accelerometer bias, and ε_{bx} , ε_{by} , and ε_{bz} are gyro drifts along x , y , and z axes.

The system state equation can be constructed as

$$\dot{X}_{\text{SINS}} = F_{\text{SINS}} X_{\text{SINS}} + W_{\text{SINS}}, \quad (14)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} W_{\text{SINS}} &= [\omega_{\delta_L} \ \omega_{\delta_\lambda} \ \omega_{V_E} \ \omega_{V_N} \ \omega_{\varphi_E} \ \omega_{\varphi_N} \ \omega_{\varphi_U} \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0], \\ F_{21} &= \frac{V_E}{R} \sec^2 L \sin L, \\ F_{31} &= \left(2\omega_{ie} \cos L + \frac{V_E}{R} \sec^2 L \right) V_N, \\ F_{41} &= -\left(2\omega_{ie} \cos L + \frac{V_E}{R} \sec^2 L \right) V_E, \\ F_{34} &= 2\omega_{ie} \sin L + \frac{V_E}{R} \tan L, \\ F_{43} &= -2\left(\omega_{ie} \sin L + \frac{V_E}{R} \tan L \right), \\ F_{57} &= -F_{75} = -\left(\omega_{ie} \cos L + \frac{V_E}{R} \right), \\ F_{56} &= -F_{65} = \omega_{ie} \sin L + \frac{V_E}{R} \tan L, \\ F_{61} &= -\omega_{ie} \sin L, \\ F_{71} &= \omega_{ie} \cos L + \frac{V_E}{R} \sec^2 L. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

C_{ij} is element of C_n^b , which is the direction cosine matrix from n -frame to b -frame:

3.4. Mathematical Model of SINS/EOAN. In the areas where GPS is unavailable and is of less terrain information, EOAN is used to correct errors of SINS [11]. The aircraft is assumed to be equipped with a video camera to collect real-time image data during the navigation. Compared with the image database stored in advance and according to the hypothesis that the gray value of each point in the above image is equal, the distance between the target and aircraft can be calculated, and the real-time position of the aircraft can be converted. Take the difference between the position information of the INS and the EOAN as the observation measurement and establish the system measurement equation as follows:

$$Z_{k_EOAN} = \begin{bmatrix} L_{SINS} - L_{EOAN} \\ \lambda_{SINS} - \lambda_{EOAN} \end{bmatrix} = H_{k_EOAN} \begin{bmatrix} X_{SINS} \\ X_{EOAN} \end{bmatrix} + V_{k_EOAN}, \quad (21)$$

where L_{EOAN} and λ_{EOAN} are position information obtained by EOAN, V_{k_EOAN} is the measurement noise matrix, and H_{k_EOAN} is the measurement matrix, which can be expressed as

$$H_{k_EOAN} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (22)$$

4. Federated Kalman Filter

4.1. System Scheme. The system scheme is shown in Figure 2. SINS is the public system, which provides position, velocity,

and attitude angle information. The first subfilter is composed of SINS and GPS, the second subfilter is composed of SINS and TAN, and the third subfilter is composed of SINS and EOAN. All the above three subfilters are Kalman filters. The federal filter is composed of the three subfilters and a main filter, where the subfilter can independently update the time and measurement, and the result will be sent to the main filter. And the main filter will feed back to the subfilters after data fusion. It is the initial value of the next cycle. It is important that the local estimations are not related to each other, so the system has good fault tolerance and can meet the requirement of long-distance and high-precision navigation.

4.2. The Traditional Kalman Filter. It is assumed that the system equation and measurement equation of the linear discrete system can be written as follows:

$$X_i(k) = \Phi_i \left(\frac{k}{k-1} \right) X_i(k-1) + W_i(k), \quad (23)$$

$$Z_i(k) = H_i(k)X_i(k) + V_i(k),$$

where $X_i(k)$ is the estimated state of subfilter i , $Z_i(k)$ is the measurement of subfilter i , $\Phi_i(k/k-1)$ is the transfer matrix from t_{k-1} to t_k , $W_i(k)$ is noise sequence of system incentive, $H_i(k)$ is the measurement matrix, $V_i(k)$ is noise sequence of measurement, and $E[V_i(k)V_i^T(k)] = R_i(k)$.

So, the subfilter equation is shown as follows.

(1) Time update is

$$\begin{cases} \hat{X}_i \left(\frac{k}{k-1} \right) = \Phi_i \left(\frac{k}{k-1} \right) \hat{X}_i(k-1), \\ P_i \left(\frac{k}{k-1} \right) = \Phi_i \left(\frac{k}{k-1} \right) P_i(k-1) \Phi_i^T \left(\frac{k}{k-1} \right) + \Gamma_i(k-1) Q_i(k-1) \Gamma_i^T(k-1). \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

(2) Measurement update is

$$\begin{cases} K_i(k) = P_i \left(\frac{k}{k-1} \right) H_i^T(k) \left(H_i^T(k) P_i \left(\frac{k}{k-1} \right) H_i^T(k) + R_i(k) \right)^{-1}, \\ P_i \left(\frac{k}{k} \right) = (I - K_i(k) H_i(k)) P_i \left(\frac{k}{k-1} \right) [I - K_i(k) H_i(k)]^T + K_i(k) R_i(k) K_i^T(k), \\ \hat{X}_i \left(\frac{k}{k} \right) = \hat{X}_i \left(\frac{k}{k-1} \right) + K_i(k) \left[Z_i(k) - H_i \left(\frac{k}{k} \right) \hat{X}_i \left(\frac{k}{k-1} \right) \right]. \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

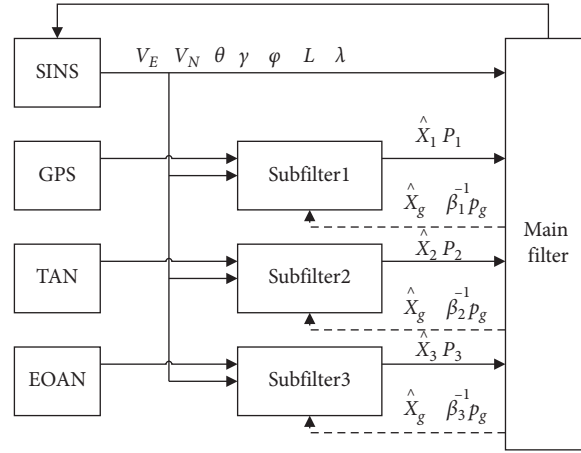


FIGURE 2: Design structure of the filter.

4.3. *The Federal Filter.* The fusion algorithm of the federal filter [18] is as follows:

$$\begin{cases} P_g = \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 P_i^{-1} \left(\frac{k}{k} \right) \right)^{-1}, \\ \hat{X}_g = P_g \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 P_i^{-1} \left(\frac{k}{k} \right) \hat{X}_i \left(\frac{k}{k} \right) \right), \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

where \hat{X}_g is global state estimation after fusion, $\hat{X}_i(k/k)$ is the local optimum estimation of subfilter, P_g is the variance matrix of error, and $P_i(k/k)$ is the local optimum estimation.

4.4. *Information Distribution.* The principle of information distribution in the federated Kalman filter is

$$\begin{cases} P_i^{-1}(k) = \beta_i P_g^{-1}(k) \\ \hat{X}_i(k) = \hat{X}_g(k) \quad (i = 1, 2, 3), \\ Q_i^{-1}(k) = \beta_i Q_g^{-1}(k) \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 \beta_i + \beta_m = 1,$$

where β_i represents the information distribution factor of subfilter and β_m represents the information distribution factor of main filter, choosing $\beta_m = 0$.

The estimation accuracy of the Federal filter is equivalent to that of the Kalman filter; however, the Federal filter has a small amount of calculation and is of strong fault tolerance. And distribution coefficient is the key to the performance of the federal filter. Considering that the estimation accuracy of each subfilter is decided by the error covariance matrix, the

distribution coefficient can be determined by the eigenvalue of the error covariance matrix; thus,

$$\beta_i(k) = \frac{\text{tr} P_i(k-1)^{-1}}{\sum_{i=1}^3 \text{tr} P_i(k-1)^{-1}}. \quad (28)$$

5. Simulation Experiment

The simulation terrain can be divided into matchable areas and unmatchable areas using the terrain selection method based on entropy weighted gray relational decision-making, and the map of divided terrain is shown as Figure 3.

The simulation conditions and parameters can be set as Table 1.

In the matchable area, the ideal trajectory starts from (31.0325 N, 118.0300 E) and ends at (31.0435 N, 118.0390 E). And the simulated navigation trajectories of SINS, SINS/TAN, and the proposed method are shown in Figure 4.

And errors of trajectories in the matchable area are calculated as Table 2.

In the unmatchable area, the ideal trajectory starts from (31.0724 N, 118.0750 E) and ends at (31.0834 N, 118.0840 E). And the simulated navigation trajectories of SINS, SINS/TAN, and the proposed method are shown in Figure 5.

And errors of trajectories in the unmatchable area are calculated as Table 3.

In Figures 3 and 4, the red line represents ideal trajectory, the blue line represents SINS trajectory, the green line represents SINS/TAN trajectory, and the orange line represents trajectory of the proposed method. Obviously, the presented navigation method can obtain a trajectory which is much closer to the ideal one.

It can be seen from Table 2 that SINS/TAN can effectively reduce the positioning error in the matchable area,

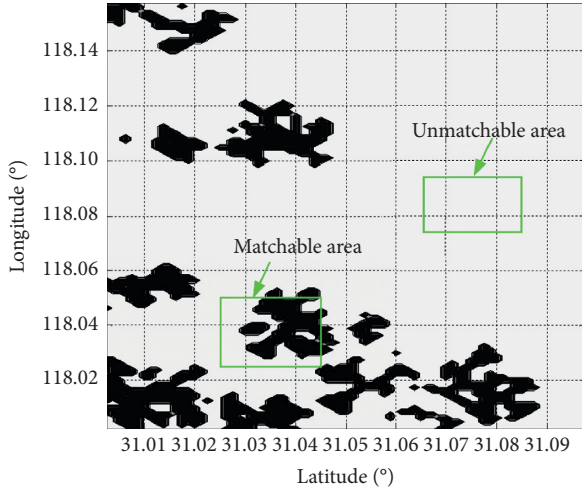


FIGURE 3: Map of divided terrain.

TABLE 1: Simulation conditions and parameters.

Terms	Conditions and parameters
Latitude initial error of SINS (")	5
Longitude initial error of SINS (")	5
East velocity error (m/s)	0.1
North velocity error (m/s)	0.1
Accelerometer biases (μg)	20
Gyroscope constant ($^{\circ}/\text{h}$)	0.1
Positioning error of TAN (m)	50
Positioning error of EOAN (m)	50

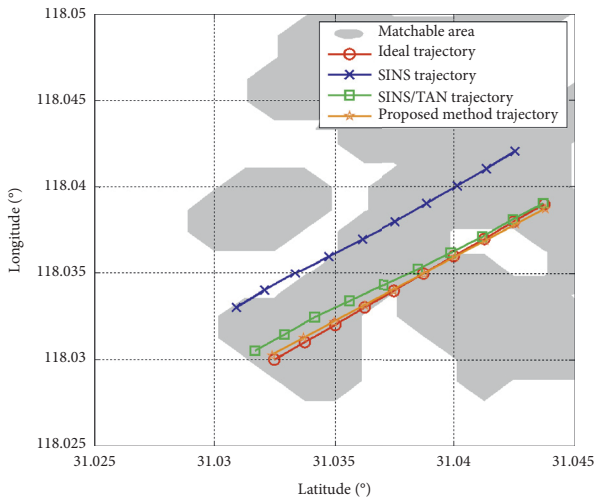


FIGURE 4: Navigation trajectory in the matchable area.

TABLE 2: Errors of trajectories in the matchable area.

Trajectory	Errors of latitude		Errors of longitude	
	Maximum	Average	Maximum	Average
SINS	186.5326	151.0221	344.6527	337.2541
SINS/TAN	95.7125	45.6324	57.8921	35.2196
SINS/GPS/TAN/ EOAN	88.3069	42.6781	55.6326	34.1945

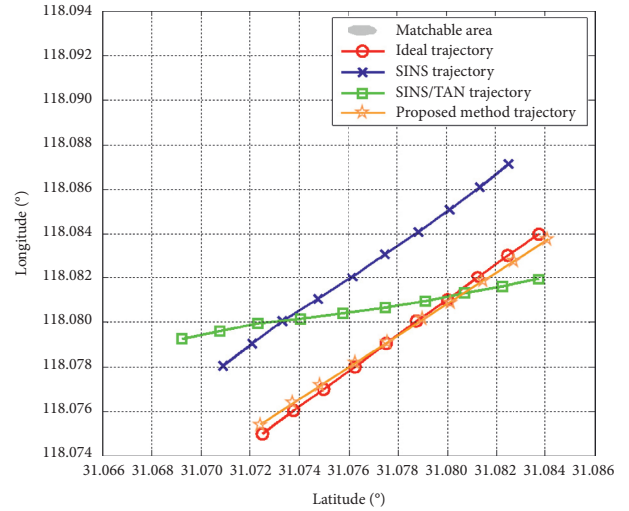


FIGURE 5: Navigation trajectory in the unmatchable area.

TABLE 3: Errors of trajectories in the unmatchable area.

Trajectory	Errors of latitude		Errors of longitude	
	Maximum	Average	Maximum	Average
SINS	186.5326	151.0221	344.6527	337.2541
SINS/TAN	350.1225	177.5213	465.2315	215.2196
SINS/GPS/TAN/ EOAN	90.1743	41.5698	59.3249	36.3312

while the positioning accuracy of SINS/GPS/TAN/EOAN is slightly higher than that of SINS/TAN.

From Table 3, it can be seen that SINS/TAN becomes useless in the unmatchable area, while SINS/GPS/TAN/EOAN can still significantly improve the positioning accuracy.

6. Conclusion

The airborne integrated navigation system proposed in this paper is a combination of SINS, GPS, TAN, and EOAN. The federal Kalman filter is used to fuse the navigation information. Compared with the simulation results, it can be seen that there is a larger deviation between the trajectory of pure SINS and that of ideal one; the trajectory of TAN is close to the ideal one in only the matchable area, while the trajectory of SINS/GPS/TAN/EOAN is close to the ideal one in both matchable area or unmatchable area, and whose navigation errors are obviously reduced, which is important for the realization of long-time and high-precision positioning.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are included within the article.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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