

Continuous structural displacement estimation combining accelerometer, vision and infrared cameras

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ABSTRACT

With the rapid development of computer vision, vision cameras have been used as noncontact sensors for structural displacement measurement. However, vision-based techniques were limited to short-term displacement measurement, because these techniques have degraded performance with varying illumination and can not operate at night. To overcome these limitations, this study developed a continuous structural displacement estimation method by combining measurements from an accelerometer, vision, and infrared cameras collocated at the displacement estimation point. The proposed method offers the following advantages: (1) continuous displacement estimation for both day-time and night-time, (2) automatic optimization of the temperature range of an infrared camera to ensure a region of interest (ROI) with rich features, and (3) adaptive updating of the reference frame to achieve illumination-robust displacement estimation from vision/IR measurements. The performance of the proposed method was verified by lab-scale tests, and displacements were estimated with less than 2 mm RMSE compared to the laser-based ground truth.

Keywords: Displacement estimation, Infrared camera, vision camera, accelerometer, multi-rate adaptive Kalman filter

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