Leveraging Honey Bees as Bio-Cyber Physical Systems

Haron Abdel-Raziq¹, Daniel Palmer¹, Michael Smith², Caroline Chu¹, Junyi Huang¹, Prof. Alyosha Molnar¹, and Asst. Prof. Kirstin Petersen¹

Challenge:





Can we improve upon the ability of social insects to sense and interact with the physical world, while providing data acquisition and control on par with explicitly engineered systems?

Impact:

- ULTRA-LOW POWER ELECTRONICS AND SENSING
 - -Micro-scale, power autonomous, integrated circuits for flight recording and analysis
- PROBABILISTIC INFERENCE FROM LARGE-SCALE DISTRIBUTED DATA SOURCES
 - -Fusion of heterogeneous sensor data
 - -Finding trends in large incomplete bio-datasets
- FEEDBACK CONTROL OF BIO-HYBRID SYSTEMS
 - -Towards gains for both data acquisition and improved foraging

Solution:

MICRO-SCALE FLIGHT RECORDERS TO BE MOUNTED ON HONEY BEES



1) Visual scene capture and analysis, 2) thermal and mechanical sensors, 3) clock, 4) storage, 5) processing, 6) photovoltaic chargers, and 7) short range communication

WESTERN HONEY BEE (Apis Mellifera):



- Foragers in a colony: 20,000
- Flight distance: 600m



- GAINS TO APICULTURE AND ENTOMOLOGY
- Improved knowledge of how bees forage in cultivated versus natural landscapes
 - -Improved models of how bees advertise the location of food sources
 - GAINS TO PRECISION AGRICULTURE
 - Instrumented hives for farmers with hourly updates on busts and blooms
 - Improved output by control of colony activity level

Honey bees in numbers: • Annual revenue world wide: \$150B

- Max flight distance: >10km
- Flight speed: 24-32km/h
- Forager payload: 55-65mg

EXPLORATORY TESTS ON LARGE-SCALE BEE-MIMICKING DRONE FLIGHTS



BEE-MIMICKING SHAKER TO ELICIT MORE POLLINATION AND FASTER DATA ACQUISTIONING



HONEY BEE FLIGHT MODELS, TO BE USED FOR SLAM AND FEATURE RECOGNITION ON CHIP





Activity near the feeder station

 No. of U.S. commercial colonies: 2.4M Colony collapse disorder has increased rental fees up to 20%

AUTOMATED CALIBRATION RIG FOR FLIGHT RECORDERS



ANGLE SENSITIVE PIXEL STRUCTURE



A rotating magnet induces motion through glass in observation hives

Cornell University

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering Rhodes Hall 324, Ithaca NY-14853, USA Haron Abdel-Raziq contact: hma49@cornell.edu Prof. Kirstin Petersen (PI) contact: kirstin@cornell.edu

Collective Embodied Intelligence Lab





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