The Impact of Road Configuration on V2V-based Cooperative Localization

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Abstract—Cooperative localization with map matching has been shown to reduce Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) localization error from several meters to sub-meter level by fusing the GNSS measurements of four vehicles in our previous work. While further error reduction is expected to be achievable by increasing the number of vehicles, the quantitative relationship between the estimation error and the number of connected vehicles has neither been systematically investigated nor analytically proved. In this work, a theoretical study is presented that analytically proves the correlation between the localization error and the number of connected vehicles in two cases of practical interest. More specifically, it is shown that, under the assumption of small non-common error, the expected square error of the GNSS common error correction is inversely proportional to the number of vehicles, if the road directions obey a uniform distribution, or inversely proportional to logarithm of the number of vehicles, if the road directions obey a Bernoulli distribution. Numerical simulations are conducted to justify these analytic results. Moreover, the simulation results show that the aforementioned error decrement rates hold even when the assumption of small non-common error is violated.

I. INTRODUCTION

Low cost Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) are used for most mobile applications, whose localization accuracy are typically in the range of several meters. Improving the localization accuracy of these widespread GNSS without incurring additional hardware and infrastructure costs has motivated recent research activities on Cooperative Map Matching (CMM). CMM has been shown able to improve Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) positioning of a group of connected vehicles through estimation and correction of the common GNSS localization error. Since the error caused by atmospheric delay and satellite clock error is almost the same to all the vehicles in the same area, this common error can be estimated by matching the vehicle positioning results to a digital road map, assuming that all the vehicles travel on lanes. With a properly estimated common error, the positioning of vehicles can be corrected, thus improving the localization accuracy. The improvement would largely depend on the quality of the common error estimation, which is determined by the CMM algorithm and the configuration of the road constraints.

Recently, two different CMM algorithms have been developed for GNSS common error estimation problem, i.e., a non-Bayesian particle-based approach in Rohani et. al. [1] and a Bayesian approach based on a Rao-Blackwellized Particle Filter in our previous work [2]. [3].

In contrast, the effects of road configuration on the common error estimation have not been reported in open literature. Intuitively, in order to produce a good estimation of the common error, the road constraints should be rich enough so that common error in different directions can be detected. This richness is expected to be enhanced with the number of vehicles and the diversity of the road directions.

In this work, the correlation between the estimation quality of the common error and the richness of the road constraints is quantified analytically. More specifically, the functional relationships between the mean square error of the common error estimation and the number of connected vehicles are derived under two different assumptions about road configurations. The results provide a guideline for the implementation of CMM and a foundation for the development of algorithms that intelligently select vehicles to include for maximal error reduction.

In the following sections, details of the derivation of the error bounds are presented with justification through Monte Carlo simulations. In Section 2, an analytic expression of the estimation error as a function of the road configuration and the non-common error is derived. In Section 3, asymptotic formulas of the expectation of the estimation error with respect to Gaussian distributed non-common error are derived for uniformly or Bernoulli distributed road directions. Nonetheless, most of the results are derived under the assumptions of large number of vehicles and small non-common error. In Section 4, simulation results are presented to demonstrate and justify the applicability of the theoretical results to realistic scenarios where both the number of connected vehicles and the non-common error are finite. In Section 5, the contributions and conclusions are summarized.

II. ESTIMATION ERROR OF THE COMMON ERROR

In this section, we propose a framework of vehicle positioning within a reference road framework to facilitate the analytic investigation. The GNSS measurement will be
decomposed into four components and one estimator of the common error will be formulated and the corresponding estimation error will be represented as an integral depending on the non-common error and the road constraints.

The coordinate of GNSS positioning of the $i$-th vehicle can be decomposed into superposition of the coordinate of a point on the corresponding lane center, the deviation of the vehicle from the lane center (yellow arrows), the common error (red arrow), the non-common error (black arrow), and the lane center also obey Gaussian distribution. As a result, the estimation error will be represented as an integral depending on the non-common error and the road constraints.

The geometric center of the intersection of the road constraints can be evaluated as

$$\tau = \frac{1}{S} \int_{\Omega} \tau dA, S = \int_{\Omega} dA,$$

where $\tau$ is the dummy integration variable and $dA$ is the area element.

The estimation error of the common error is of practical interest, which can be evaluated as

$$e = x^C - \tilde{x}^C = x^C - \frac{1}{S} \int_{\Omega} \tau dA = x^C - \frac{1}{S} \int_{\Omega} (x^C - \tau)dA = x^C - \frac{1}{S} \int_{\Omega} \tau dA,$$

where

$$\tau' = x^C - \tau,$$

and

$$\Omega' = \{\tau' \mid \int_{\Omega} \tilde{g}_i(\tilde{x}_i^N + \tau') < 0\}.$$

Eq. (8) and (10) states that the estimation error equals to the geometric center of the intersection of the road constraints perturbed by the composite non-common error $\tilde{x}_i^N$. It has been shown by experimental data that the GNSS non-common error can be well approximated as Gaussian random variable in [2]. The Safety Pilot dataset collected in Ann Arbor shows that statistically the deviations from the lane center also obey Gaussian distribution. As a result, the composite error $\tilde{x}_i^N$ is a Gaussian random variable.
The expectation of the square estimation error is of practical interest. In two special cases, analytic approximations to this expectation valid for large number of vehicles can be established.

### III. ASYMPTOTIC ANALYSIS FOR THE EXPECTED SQUARE ERROR

In this section, we derive the asymptotic decay of the mean square error with respect to the number of vehicles in two typical cases of the road configuration, whose examples are shown in Fig. 2. In the first case, the road configuration is modeled as cross roads where the roads are either parallel or orthogonal. In the second case, it is modeled as randomly oriented roads where the direction angles obey a uniform distribution.

#### A. Orthogonal road directions

In the first case, it is assumed that each road is parallel to one of the two orthogonal axes of the global reference frame. As a result, the direction angles \( \theta \) of the vehicles relative to the reference frame belong to a set with four elements:

\[
\theta_i \in \{0, \frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}\}
\]

This case can be viewed as a simplified model for the urban areas where most roads are orthogonal to each other.

Invoking (8), the square error can be expressed analytically as

\[
e^2 = \frac{X_1^2 + X_2^2 + X_3^2 + X_4^2 - 2X_1X_3 - 2X_2X_4}{4},
\]

where \( X_j, j = 1, 2, 3, 4 \) are the largest projections of the composite non-common error on each of the four normal vectors:

\[
X_j = \max\{\tilde{x}^N_1 \cdot n_j, \tilde{x}^N_2 \cdot n_j, ..., \tilde{x}^N_{N_j} \cdot n_j\}, j = 1, 2, 3, 4.
\]

\( N_j, j = 1, 2, 3, 4 \) are the numbers of vehicles traveling in each of the four directions.

If all the \( \tilde{x}^N_i \cdot n_i, i = 1, 2, ..., N \) are independent and identically distributed, then according to the Fisher-Tippett-Gnedenko theorem \[4\], the limit distribution of \( X_j \) for large \( N_j \) is Gumbel distribution whose cumulative distribution function is given by

\[
F(X_j) = \exp(-\exp(-(X_j - \mu_j)/\beta_j)).
\]

Moreover, the leading order of the normalization constants \( \mu_j \) and \( \beta_j \) are related to the variance of the Gaussian distribution \( \sigma \) through

\[
\mu_j \sim \sigma \sqrt{2\log(N_j)}, \beta_j \sim \sigma \sqrt{\frac{2\log(N_j)}{N_j}}.
\]

Using the property of Gumbel distribution, the expectation of \( e^2 \) with respect to \( X_j \) can be evaluated:

\[
E_X[e^2] = \frac{\pi^2}{24} \sum_{j=1}^{4} \beta_j^2 + \frac{1}{4} [\mu_1 - \mu_3 + \gamma(\beta_1 - \beta_3)]^2
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{4} [\mu_2 - \mu_4 + \gamma(\beta_2 - \beta_4)]^2
\]

where \( \gamma \approx 0.5772 \) is the Euler-Mascheroni constant.

With the assumption that all the four \( N_j \) are large number of the same order and using the asymptotic formulas (15), it can be readily shown that the first term in (16) is of \( O(\frac{1}{\log(N_j)}) \) and the following two terms are of \( O(\frac{1}{N_j \log(N_j)}) \). Thus, the leading order asymptotic approximation is

\[
E_X[e^2] \sim \frac{\pi^2 \sigma^2}{48} \sum_{j=1}^{4} \frac{1}{\log(N_j)}. \tag{17}
\]

#### B. Uniformly distributed random road directions

In the second case, each direction angle is assumed to be randomly distributed within \([0, 2\pi]\). In addition, it is assumed that the non-common error is small enough such that (8) can be linearized with respect to the non-common error:

\[
e = e_0 + \Delta e = e_0 + \frac{CX}{S_0}, \tag{18}
\]

where

\[
e_0 = \frac{1}{S_0} \int_{\Omega_0} \tau' dA,
\]

\( \Omega_0 = \{ \tau' \mid \tau' \in \tau \} \)

\[
\hat{X} = [\tilde{x}^N_1 \cdot n_1, \tilde{x}^N_2 \cdot n_2, ..., \tilde{x}^N_N \cdot n_N]^T,
\]

and

\[
C = S_0 \frac{\partial e}{\partial X}. \tag{22}
\]

\( C \) is a \( 2 \times N \) matrix whose components are related to the geometric quantities of the road constraints.

The condition under which the linearization (18) is valid is

\[
\|\hat{X}\|_\infty \ll \frac{2\pi w}{N}. \tag{23}
\]

where \( w \) is the half width of the lane.

With the assumption that each non-common error obeys independent Gaussian distribution with zero mean, i.e., \( \hat{X} \sim N(0_{N \times 1}, diag(\sigma^2_1, \sigma^2_2, ..., \sigma^2_N)) \), the expectation of the square error is

\[
E_X[e^2] = e_0^2 + \frac{1}{S_0^2} \text{tr}(L^T C^T C L), \tag{24}
\]

where \( L = diag(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, ..., \sigma_N) \) is the Cholesky decomposition of the joint Gaussian covariance matrix.

Eq. (24) is quite useful in practice as it implicitly provides a measurement of the road configurations. Given any road configurations specified by \( e_0 \) and \( C \), the mean square error can be evaluated. An optimization technique can be developed to select the best road configuration so as to optimize the localization accuracy. On the other hand, the theoretical value of this equation is demonstrated through the derivation of asymptotic error decrement shown as follows.

As both \( e_0, S_0 \) and \( C \) depends on the road direction angles \( \theta \), \( E_X(e^2) \) is also a random variable. It can be shown that
the expectation of $E_X(e^2)$ with respect to $\theta_i, i = 1, 2, ..., N$ is of $O(\frac{1}{N})$ (See Appendix). More specifically,

$$E_{\theta}[e_0^2] = \frac{2w^2}{9N} + o(\frac{1}{N})$$  \hspace{1cm} (25)

and

$$E_{\theta}\left[\frac{1}{2}\text{tr}(L^TC^TCL)\right] = \frac{3}{2N^2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sigma_i^2 + o(\frac{1}{N})$$  \hspace{1cm} (26)

IV. SIMULATION JUSTIFICATION

In this section, simulation results are presented to justify the validity of the asymptotic formulas derived in Section 3. The expectations are calculated by averaging over 5000 samples of $e^2$. Each sample value for the orthogonal road case is calculated through two approaches. One approach is the analytic formula (12), and the other approach is a Monte Carlo integration where the proposal distribution is a two-dimensional uniform distribution. Besides, the number of vehicles in each direction is the same. For the uniformly random road angle case, each sample value of $e^2$ is calculated by the Monte Carlo integration. The number of samples to implement each Monte Carlo integration is 10000. The road half width is $w = 2$ m in the simulation.

A. Small non-common error: $\sigma = 0.3$ m

Fig. 3 shows the comparison of the orthogonal road case. The asymptotic formula is in good agreement with the numerical results as the number of vehicles increases. The results using the two numerical approaches are also different, which should be caused by the random error resulted from the Monte Carlo integration used to calculate $e^2$. Therefore, the one that uses (8) is expected to be closer to the underlying true expectation. Compared with this result, the asymptotic formula slightly overestimates the error. This difference may be the result of the fact that the convergence to the Gumbel distribution is rather slow [5].

Fig. 4 shows the comparison of the random road angle case. Fig. 5 shows the corresponding difference between the asymptotic formula and the simulation results using Monte Carlo integration. The difference reaches its minimum around $N = 25 \sim 30$ and increases with the further increase of $N$. This result can be expected for the following two reasons. First, the asymptotic formula is derived for large $N$. As a result, the difference at small $N$ should be significant. Second, the linearization (18) based on the small non-common error assumption (23) eventually becomes invalid for fixed $\sigma$ and increasing $N$.

B. Large non-common error: $\sigma = 1$ m

The analytic results shown in Section 3 do not apply to the large non-common error case because the approximate feasible set described by (4) may be an empty set. Nonetheless, this problem can be addressed by assigning a weight to each hypothesis of the common error according to its compatibility with the road constraints. The weighted road map approach proposed by Rohani et. al. is applied
**V. CONCLUSIONS**

In this paper, the impact of road configuration on the CMM localization accuracy is studied theoretically. The correlation between the mean square error of the common error estimation and the number of connected vehicles is proved analytically and shown through numerical simulation. The main results and findings are summarized:

1) A closed form expression of the mean square estimation error in terms of the road configuration and the non-common error is derived for the evaluation of the impact of road configuration on CMM.

2) The mean square error of the common error estimation is inversely proportional to the logarithm of the number of connected vehicles asymptotically if the random road angles are either parallel or orthogonal.

3) The mean square error of the common error estimation is inversely proportional to the number of connected vehicles asymptotically if the road angles obey a uniform distribution.

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**APPENDIX**

The detail with respect to the derivation of (25) and (26) is presented here. The direction angles of the roads are denoted by $[\theta_1, \theta_2, ..., \theta_N]$. Without loss of generality, it is assumed that
\[ 0 \leq \theta_1 \leq \theta_2 \leq \ldots \leq \theta_N \leq 2\pi. \] The increments of the angles are defined as
\[ \tilde{\theta}_i = \begin{cases} 
\theta_{i+1} - \theta_i & \text{for } i = 1, 2, \ldots N - 1 \\
\theta_1 - \theta_N + 2\pi & \text{for } i = N
\end{cases} \] (27)

\[ e_0^2 \] can be expressed in terms of the geometric quantities:
\[ e_0^2 = \frac{(\sum_{i=1}^{\pi} w^3 \tan(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2}) \cos(\theta_i))^2}{S_0^2} \]
\[ + \frac{(\sum_{i=1}^{\pi} w^3 \tan(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2}) \sin(\theta_i))^2}{S_0^2} \]
\[ + \frac{4w^2 \sum_{i=1}^{\pi} \tan(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2})^2}{9 \pi^2} \]
\[ + \frac{4w^2 \sum_{i=1}^{\pi} \sum_{j=1}^{\pi} \tan(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_j}{2}) \tan(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2}) \cos(\theta_j - \theta_i)}{\pi^2} \]
\[ + \text{Higher Order Terms} \] (28)

The probability distribution of \( \tilde{\theta}_i \) can be derived:
\[ p(\tilde{\theta}_i) = \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1}, \quad 0 \leq \tilde{\theta}_i \leq \pi. \] (29)

Accurate to the leading order:
\[ E_\theta[e_0^2] = \frac{4w^2}{9\pi^2} E_\theta[\sum_{i=1}^{\pi} \tan^2(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2})] = \frac{4w^2}{9\pi^2} E_\theta[\tan^2(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2})] \] (30)

The expectation in (30) can be calculated:
\[ E_\theta[\tan^2(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2})] = \int_0^{\pi} \tan^2(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2}) \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1} d\tilde{\theta}_i \]
\[ = \int_0^{\pi} \left( \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2} \right)^2 \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1} d\tilde{\theta}_i \]
\[ + \int_0^{\pi} \left[ \tan^2(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2}) - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2} \right]^2 \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1} d\tilde{\theta}_i \]
\[ + \int_0^{\pi} \tan^2(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2}) \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1} d\tilde{\theta}_i \]
\[ + \int_0^{\pi} \tan^2(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2}) \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1} d\tilde{\theta}_i \] (31)

The first term after the last equality in (31) can be integrated analytically and shown that
\[ \int_0^{\pi} \left( \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2} \right)^2 \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1} d\tilde{\theta}_i \sim \frac{\pi^2}{2N^2} \] (32)

The remaining three term will be shown as \( o(\frac{1}{N^2}) \) terms:
\[ \int_0^{\pi} \left[ \tan^2(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2}) - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2} \right]^2 \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1} d\tilde{\theta}_i \]
\[ < \int_0^{\pi} \left( \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2} \right)^4 \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1} d\tilde{\theta}_i \]
\[ < \frac{\pi^2}{4N} \int_0^{\pi} \left( \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2} \right) \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1} d\tilde{\theta}_i \]
\[ = O(\frac{1}{N^2}). \] (33)

As
\[ \lim_{N \to \infty} N^2(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}})^N \]
\[ = \lim_{N \to \infty} N^4(1 - \frac{1}{N})^N \]
\[ = \lim_{N \to \infty} N^4 e^{-N} = 0, \] (35)

it follows that
\[ \int_0^{\pi} \tan^2(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2}) \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1} d\tilde{\theta}_i \sim o(\frac{1}{N^2}). \] (36)

\[ \int_0^{\pi} \tan^2(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2}) \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-1} d\tilde{\theta}_i \]
\[ < \int_0^{\pi} \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-3} d\tilde{\theta}_i \]
\[ < \int_0^{\pi} \frac{N}{\pi}(1 - \frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{\pi})^{N-3} d\tilde{\theta}_i \]
\[ = \frac{N}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{N-3} \sim o(\frac{1}{N^2}). \] (37)

\[ E_\theta[ \frac{1}{S_0^2} \text{tr}(L^T C^T C L) ] = E_\theta[ \frac{1}{S_0^2} \text{tr}(L^T C^T C L) ] \]
\[ = \sum_{i=1}^{N} 2a_i^2 \left( E_\theta[\tan^2(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2})] + E_\theta[\tan(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_i}{2})] \right) + H.O.T. \] (38)

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