



## A low cost spying quadrotor for global security applications using hacked digital cameras

A. Gademer, C. Chéron, S. Monat, F. Mainfroy, L. Beaudoin

ESIEA Paris / Université Paris-Est (France)

# DEFCON 17

<http://fauconnoir.esiea.fr>

[www.esiea-recherche.eu](http://www.esiea-recherche.eu)

# Warning

We apologies, but this is a first draft of our presentation slides.  
Look up for the last version on DEFCON's and faucon noir's website :

- [www.defcon.org](http://www.defcon.org)
- <http://fauconnoir.esiea.fr>
- [www.esiea-recherche.eu](http://www.esiea-recherche.eu)

Thanks for reading us,

Faucon Noir team.

# Summary

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Flight of the Bumblebee
- 3 With bird eyes
- 4 Taming of the camera
- 5 Views from up-there
- 6 Flight Demo

# Summary

## 1 Introduction

- Who the heck are we ?

Who the heck are we ?

## Student team

- From October 2007 to June 2009
- Engineering grad school students & PhD student



Who the heck are we ?

# Development & Research laboratory

- Signal and Image Processing dept. ATIS,  
one of ESIEA engineering school's labs.



- Université Paris-Est : PhD funding



# Summary

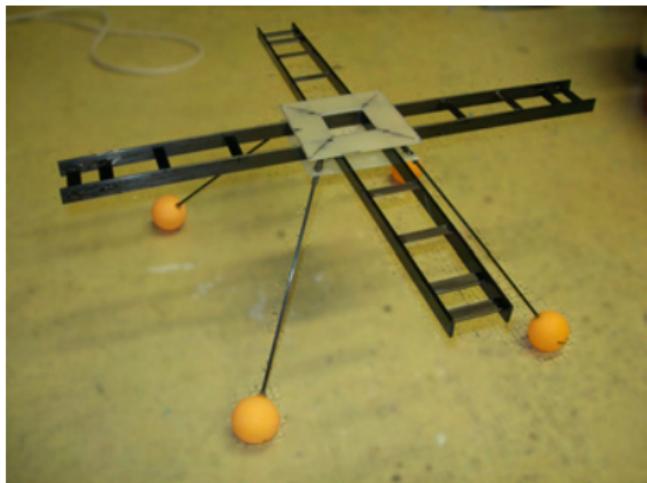
2

## Flight of the Bumblebee

- Take-off of the project
- Basic Control
- Advanced Control
- Ground station

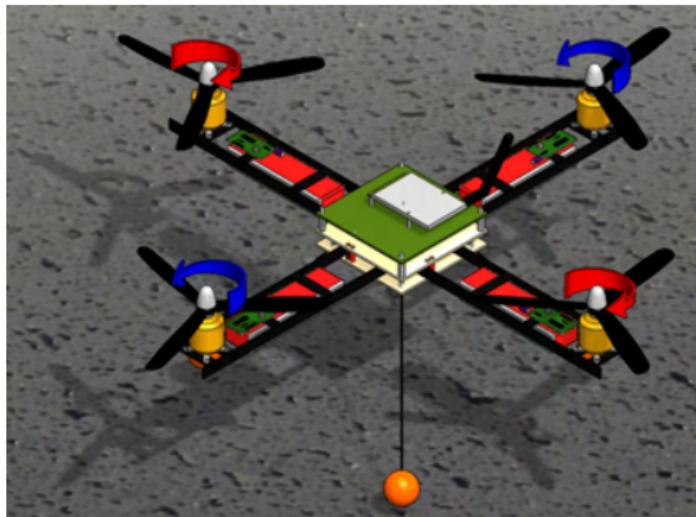
# What is a quadrotor ?

- a rigid structure



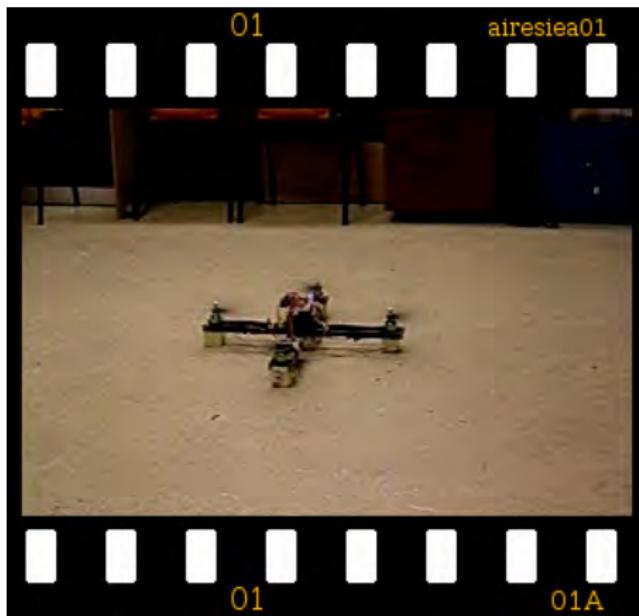
# What is a quadrotor ?

- a rigid structure
- several rotors



Take-off of the project

# Video : First fly



# Not so simple

- A quadrotor without smart electronic to control attitude goes nowhere but in the wall !
- Let the Flight Assistant do the hard work.

# Video : stabilization algorithm



# Agility

- Good flight dynamics



# Limits

- Need at least an experimented R/C pilot
- Sensitive to wind
- Lot of altitude variation

# Advanced Control

- What if anyone could fly it ?
- Complete X,Y,Z control

# Need for sensors

- GPS sensor, pressure sensor, ultrasonic ranger system
- Data fusion

# Work in progress

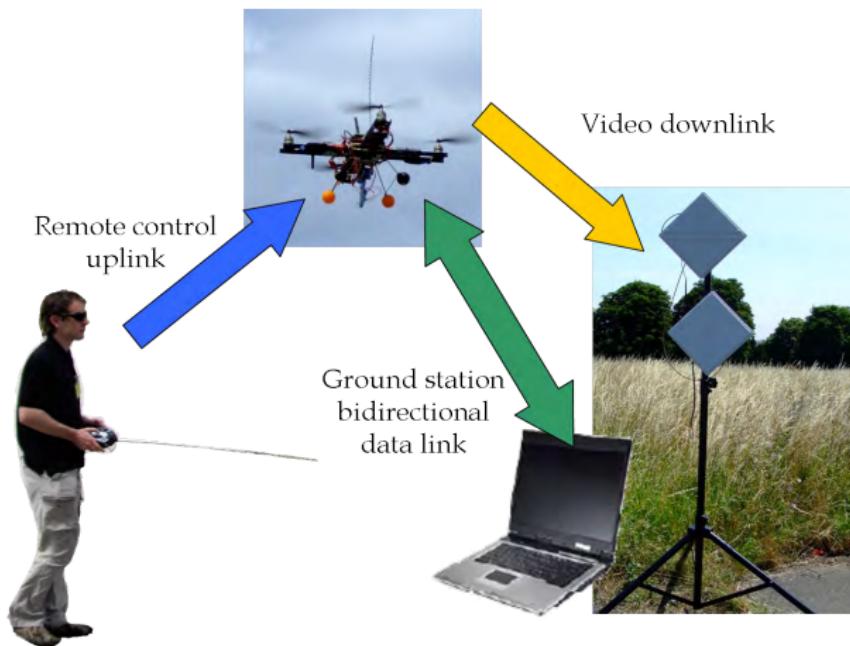
- For the moment : only Z control, sensitive to wind
- Promising results

# Ground station

## Critical parameters monitoring

- Security checklist
- PID coefficients setup
- Signal power monitoring
- Battery monitoring
- Status of every chip
- Real-time position and attitude

# Communications



# Summary

## 3 With bird eyes

- One for fun
- Two for stereo
- Three for headaches

# One for fun

- Look at it when it flies...
- ... or see from its eyes
- Lots of experiment before success

## Tests conclusions

- Keep it simple, stupid
- Use integrated systems when possible
- Cameras are very sensitive to high frequency vibrations
- Give useful information about what is happening on the quadrotor
- Nice movies for recreation or exploration

## Two for stereo

- Two eyes, two camera, two point of view
- Difference between the two images give the depth

# Perspectives

- Produced images given to a PhD student.
- Waiting for experience return

Three for headaches

## Three for headaches

- He who can do more...
- Need for simultaneous vertical and side views of scenes
- Mosaics

Three for headaches

# Mosaics



# Summary

4

## Taming of the camera

- On-the-shelf benefits & drawbacks
- Slash & Hack

# On-the-shelf benefits & drawbacks

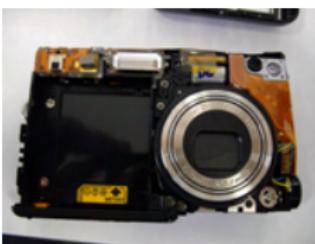
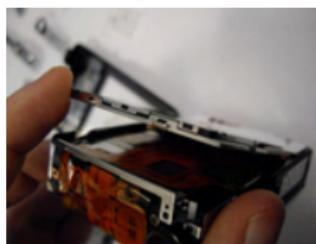
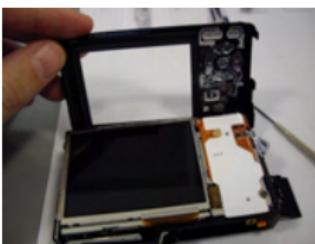
- Professional optical system w. stabilizer
- Included storage & battery
- Big & Heavy
- Made for human eyes and fingers

# Slash & Hack

- Reduce weight to the minimum
- Effective remote control
- Precise time-stamp for each picture

# Slimming diet

- Weight out of the box : 145 g (5,1 oz)
- Remove everything it doesn't need



# Pull the trigger

- More and more electronics in these systems
- Talking the same "Logic"
- TTL (Transistor-Transistor Logic) 3.3V

# Hacking's conclusion

- Full control of digital camera
- Automatic trigger pulling
- Precise picture time-stamp (20 ms)

# Summary

5

## Views from up-there

- French Navy Academy
- Challenge Minidrones contest
- Natural History Museum

# French Navy Academy

- July 2008
- Presentation of the flying capacity of the quadrotor in front of navy students

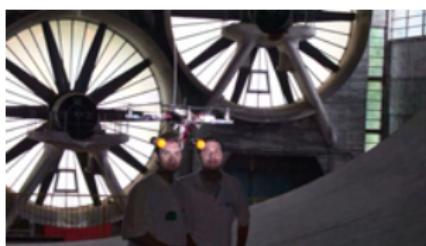
# Illustration



# Challenge Minidrones contest

- Started in winter 2007, final in May 2009
- Funded by French Aerospace institute (ONERA) and French Army Headquarter (DGA)
- Third rank on thirteen teams

# Illustration



# Natural History Museum

- June 2009
- Field test in Fontainebleau forest to validate simultaneous acquisition of pictures

# Illustration



Introduction  
oo

Flight of the Bumblebee  
oooooooooooo

With bird eyes  
oooooo

Taming of the camera  
oooooo

Views from up-there  
oooooo

Flight Demo

# Summary

## 6 Flight Demo

# Flight Demo

- We hope will we be able to bring our quadrotor through the US customs
- In this case, we will be glad to provide you with a flight demo

# Thanks

We thank you for your attention