

Fuzzy Logic-based Adaptive Cruise Control for Autonomous Model Car

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Keywords: Advanced Driver Assistance Systems, Adaptive Cruise Control, Fuzzy Logic.

Abstract: One of the most critical challenges for the driver during highway driving is to adjust the vehicle speed continuously to maintain safe distance in respect to the heading vehicles or highway traffic. Neglecting a safe distance can cause deadly collisions, especially at high velocities. Thus, car speed must adapt smoothly and efficiently in relation to the velocity of the vehicle in front and the headway distance. Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) is an Advanced Driver Assistant System that is used to control both velocity and distance at the same time. The system needs either a PID controller per state or a MIMO system. In this paper, we propose an ACC using a Fuzzy Logic approach for an autonomous model car called "AutoMiny." AutoMiny was developed at the Dahlem Center for Machine Learning and Robotics at Freie Universität Berlin. It navigates by correcting its orientation error given by a global localization system and a pre-built grid map. The proposed controller can handle two states with differently designed profiles, and we will compare the performance of our approach with that of a PID controller.

1 INTRODUCTION

Advanced Driver Assistant Systems (ADAS) in vehicles have had significant improvement over the last decade. This is due to increased efforts from several automotive manufacturers and the testing of self-driving cars on public roads around the globe in recent years, which induced even more significant investments by many industry members. Cars equipped with ADAS with several automation features, such as automatic parking systems, automotive night visions, and automotive navigation systems have already begun to appear in the market from various manufacturers. These systems are meant not only to assist the driver in driving efficiently but also to prevent collision or accident probability (Naranjo et al., 2003). Furthermore, self-driving vehicles have become notable for their potential to provide individual mobility assistance (Chan, 2017).

Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) is a vital ADAS that almost all automotive manufacturers are aiming to deliver in their modern cars. Vehicles provided with cruise control are considered level 1 autonomous cars as defined in SAE J3016 standard (SAE-J3016, 2018). It controls both velocity and distance based on information provided by onboard sensors such as

laser scanners, radars, or cameras. These sensors help to distinguish if the vehicle is approaching a vehicle ahead so that it can adjust its speed and the distance to the car ahead to prevent a collision; otherwise, it drives at a preset speed. ACC has been introduced to significantly improve driver preference and decrease workload as an intelligent driver assistance system. Such a system helps to prevent accidents and depreciate the consequences of an impact should one occur by sustaining a safe gap and speed in the desired range of the driver (Sang-Jin Ko and Ju-Jang Lee, 2007) (Mamat and Ghani, 2009). Furthermore, it can improve driving comfort, decrease driving errors, enhance safety, expand traffic limits, and reduce fuel consumption (Lu and Aakre, 2018).

There are multiple methods to implement Adaptive Cruise Control. Mathematical control-based techniques produce reliable results but with high computational and design costs. Using fuzzy logic for ACC has been in academia and industry for many years (Sang-Jin Ko and Ju-Jang Lee, 2007) (Panaturak et al., 2009). However, most publications focused on experiments in a simulation environment (Basjaruddin et al., 951) (Singh et al., 2015). This paper presents a large amount of interesting experimental results to compare the performance of our fuzzy logic controller with that of a PID controller.

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Figure 1: AutoMiny: a model car developed at Dahlem Center for Machine Learning and Robotics at Freie Universität Berlin.

2 HARDWARE

2.1 Model Car "AutoMiny"

AutoMiny is a 4WD Ackermann steering model-vehicle (scale 1:10), developed at the Dahlem Center (Mendoza et al., 2019) and shown in Figure 1. It is programmed to drive in fully autonomous mode. The vehicle has the dimensions (L x W x H) 445 mm x 195 mm x 300 mm. The central computer is an Odroid-XU4 running Ubuntu 18.04 and the Robotic Operating System (ROS) melodic on top (Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory et al., 2018). The model car has been motorized with a brushless DC-servomotor with a built-in encoder and a servo motor with analog feedback for steering.

Sensors and electronics are fixed in one layer. The sensors in the vehicle include a 360° rotating laser scanner which detects obstacles and walls around the vehicle, and an IMU module provides measurements from a combined 3-axis gyroscope and 3-axis accelerometer. A Kinect-type stereoscopic system has been mounted on top of the car's body. It has an Intel D435 RealSense camera and a aruco marker mounted on top of it. The aruco marker encodes the car ID and is used to obtain the global localization of the car. The vehicle has 2 LED stripes for simulating the head- and taillights, as well as turning and brake lights.

2.2 Lab Setup

A 600 * 430 [cm²] map was prepared to test and run AutoMiny in the lab. The map had two lanes, the outer one 14.78 [m] long, and the inner one 12.76 [m].

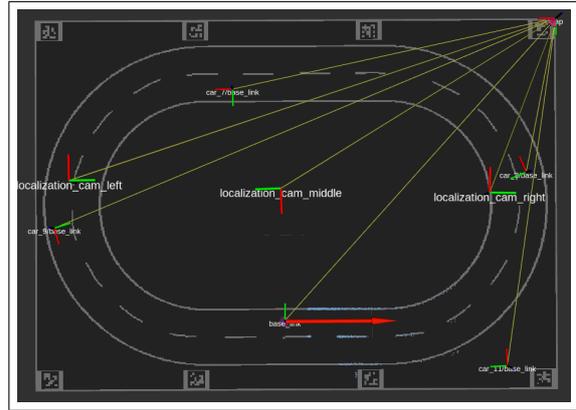


Figure 2: Lab road map used to test ACC on the model car.

A bounded indoor localization system was built to help the car navigate on the map. The system consisted of 3 cameras mounted on the ceiling and pointing towards the floor. Those three cameras provided a full image of the map where the car could move. Eight different aruco markers were fixed on the map, as shown in Figure 2. Each camera on the ceiling could see four aruco markers at the same time to find their pose, and could detect the car if it was located in its field of view, which was usually between those four markers.

3 ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL

Since the car is a nonlinear element, and its analytical description is complex, the employment of artificial intelligence approaches (such as fuzzy logic control) is a way to reach human-like speed control. It is an expert system based on if-then rules which allow it to overcome some limitations of other linear control frameworks. Even though fuzzy logic is somewhat controversial, it is a sturdy technique. It allows control without comprehensive knowledge of the controlled system state, and it represents in a very productive way the rational argumentation means (Naranjo et al., 2003).

3.1 Design ACC based on Fuzzy Logic Approach

For this work, Mamdani fuzzy inference method was used. Figure 3 shows a fuzzy logic control block diagram. Relative distance and relative speed between the cars are used as inputs for the controller, and the output is the acceleration (Milanes et al., 2012). The tests involved an adequately rich set of behaviors (straight line motion, on curve motion). During the

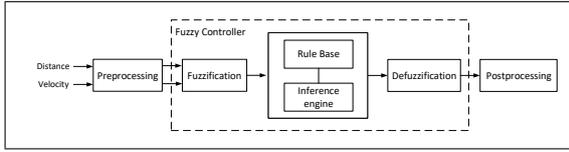


Figure 3: Blocks of fuzzy controller (Jantzen, 1998).

tests, the variety of values for each input and output variable had to span the whole intervals of exposition necessary for the predicted performance of the controller (Driankov and Saffiotti, 2001). However, since the experiment was in a lab, these intervals were set to limit the car's speed and the desired distance range. Distance and velocity also laid within these known intervals. Thus, input-output data should cover these intervals.

Fuzzy logic gives the designer more flexibility to define the error based on his needs. Here we choose the controller inputs to be the difference between desired value and actual value

$$e_d = d_{des} - d_{act} \quad (1)$$

$$e_v = v_{des} - v_{act} \quad (2)$$

Table 1 shows the desired and the actual intervals for each input variable of the controller. The actual intervals are chosen based on different aspects including safety distance and sensors' accuracy. The desired intervals are chosen based on the tolerance of the design. The final intervals (the controller inputs) are calculated as follows:

$$\Delta d_{min} = 200 - 500 = -300 \quad [cm]$$

$$\Delta d_{max} = 300 - 200 = +100 \quad [cm]$$

$$\Delta v_{min} = 10 - 105 = -95 \quad [cm/s]$$

$$\Delta v_{max} = 100 - 5 = +95 \quad [cm/s]$$

Table 1: Input - Output variables intervals.

Variable	Desired Range	Actual Range	Final Range
Δd [cm]	[+200, +300]	[+200, +500]	[-300, +100]
Δv [cm/s]	[+10, +100]	[+5, +105]	[-95, +95]

After defining the Input-Output range values for the controller, we should assign linguistic terms for each input and output interval, and then choose a membership function. These linguistic terms are known as fuzzy set.

Recognizing the necessity of a quick response from the ACC, a triangular membership function was chosen based on the results from (Ahmad and Basiran, 2015). It proved that using triangular or trapezoid membership functions utilized fewer computer resources compared to the Gaussian approach, although while Gaussian membership consumes more computational time to process the information, the

outcome is more precise. However, for such a system, the rejoinder is weighted more than the accuracy in the output value as long as this system is designed for AutoMiny in the lab environment.

Tables 2 and 3 show the list and arrangement of the ACC input and output quantities with its fuzzy set and Figure 4 visualizes fuzzy set partitioning and membership functions of input and output intervals.

Table 2: List of input variables for the fuzzy controller.

Input	Value Range	Linguistic variable	Linguistic terms
Δd [cm]	[-300, +100]	Distance	Far, Ok, Close
Δv [cm/s]	[-95, +95]	Speed	Fast, Ok, Slow

Table 3: List of output variables for the fuzzy controller.

Output	Value Range	Linguistic variable	Linguistic terms
Δa [cm/s ²]	[-0.5, +0.5]	Acceleration	Decelerate, Ok, Accelerate

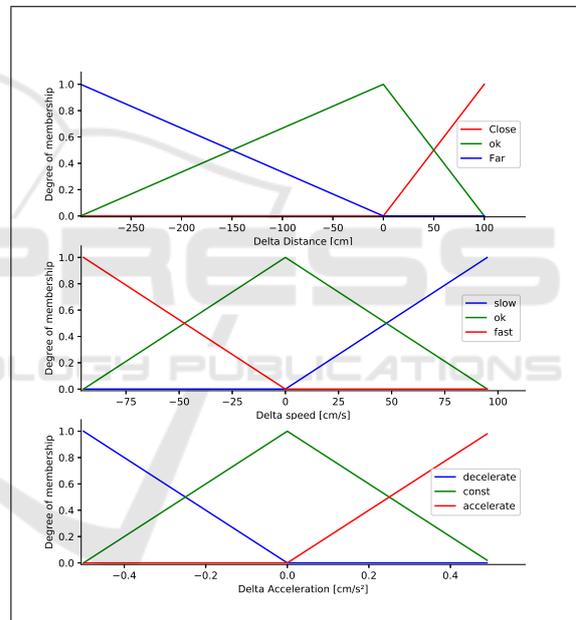


Figure 4: Definition of membership functions and Fuzzy sets.

3.1.1 Preprocessing

As mentioned before, the two inputs for the controller were the change of speed and change of distance. Based on what is described in section 2.2, the position and speed data for the ego- and the target-car were received from the simulated GPS in the lab. Still, this data needs to be averaged before passing it to the fuzzy controller to obtain longer-term tendencies as the data is most often crisp. This happens in the preprocessing step (Jantzen, 1998).

The GPS provides the car's position on the field at 30 Hz frequency. However, we calculate the dis-

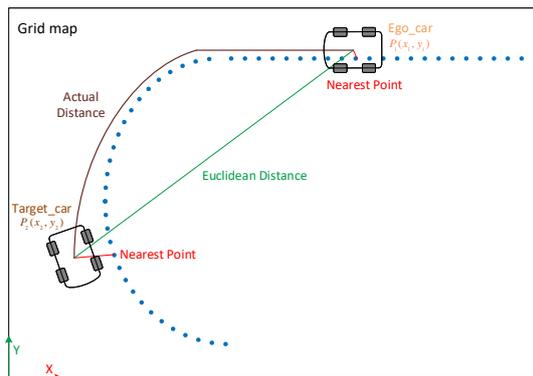


Figure 5: Relative distance calculation.

tance between the cars along the path as presented in Figure 5. On the other hand, calculating the relative speed is faster. We receive both cars' linear speed data from our local GPS server. When the inputs data is proper and ready, the preprocessor passes it on to the controller.

3.1.2 Fuzzification

A fuzzy controller deals only with linguistic rather than crisp variables. Hence, a step called fuzzification is needed for each received input data. Fuzzification means converting the obtained input data to a degree of membership for each fuzzy set in the membership functions so that we can use it in the fuzzy controller rules. As an example, an arbitrary error in distance and speed of -170 [cm] and 50 [cm/s] respectively are taken as input values for the ACC fuzzy controller. Figure 6 shows the fuzzification results for them. The distance error input value has approximately 0.56 degrees of membership for "far" fuzzy set and 0.44 for "ok" fuzzy set, while it does not have any degrees of membership for the "close" fuzzy set. Meanwhile, the velocity error input value has approximately 0.48 degrees of membership for "ok" fuzzy set and 0.52 for "slow" fuzzy set, while it does not have any degrees of membership for the "fast" fuzzy set.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Delta Distance} = \text{Far:} & \quad \mu_{\text{deltaDistanceFar}}(-170) = 0.56 \\ \text{Delta Distance} = \text{OK:} & \quad \mu_{\text{deltaDistanceOK}}(-170) = 0.44 \\ \text{Delta Distance} = \text{Close:} & \quad \mu_{\text{deltaDistanceSlow}}(-170) = 0.0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Delta Speed} = \text{Fast:} & \quad \mu_{\text{deltaSpeedFast}}(50) = 0.0 \\ \text{Delta Speed} = \text{OK:} & \quad \mu_{\text{deltaSpeedOK}}(50) = 0.48 \\ \text{Delta Speed} = \text{Slow:} & \quad \mu_{\text{deltaSpeedSlow}}(50) = 0.52 \end{aligned}$$

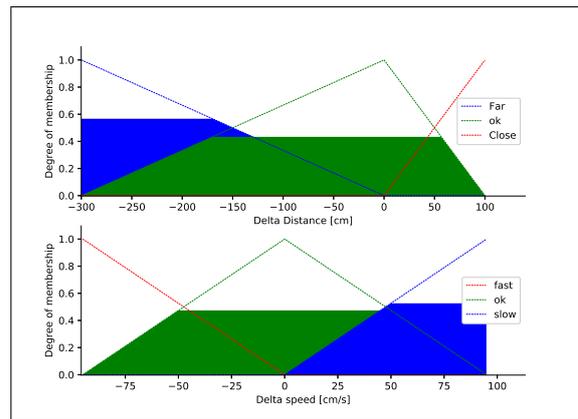


Figure 6: Fuzzification for input values.

3.1.3 Rule Base

Fuzzy control rules have an if-then format. They are built based on designer expertise and demands. An example of one rule is:

if Delta Distance is *Close* and Delta Velocity is *Slow*
then *Decelerate*

The relational format essentially assumes that the connective between the inputs is always a *logical connective*. It should be emphasized, though, that it has to be the same operation for all rules and not a mixture of connectives (Michels et al., 2006). Logical **and** and logical **or** are the most prominent, and they are always defined in pairs (Jantzen, 1998):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a \text{ and } b} &= \min(a,b) \\ \mathbf{a \text{ or } b} &= \max(a,b) \end{aligned}$$

Table 4 exposes the fuzzy rules base for our ACC. The first two columns are inputs and the right most is an output. Each row represents a rule. Safety, power consumption, and ride comfort were the aspects taken into account when defining the rules.

Table 4: Fuzzy Rule Base.

	Delta Distance	Delta Speed	Delta Acceleration
1	Close	Slow	Decelerate
2	Close	OK	Decelerate
3	Close	Fast	Decelerate
4	OK	Slow	Constant
5	OK	OK	Constant
6	OK	Fast	Decelerate
7	Far	Slow	Accelerate
8	Far	OK	Constant
9	Far	Fast	Decelerate

3.1.4 Inference Engine

The inference engine looks up the membership grades in the condition for each rule. Let us continue with the

example we mentioned in section 3.1.2 by applying the rule base mentioned in Table 4. Figure 7 manifests the output membership activity of the ACC fuzzy controller i.e. the fuzzification of the output values results from applying the rules.

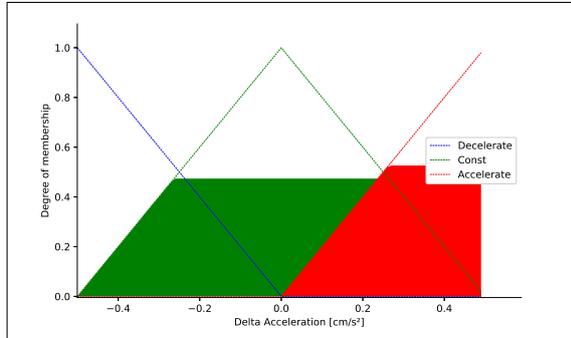


Figure 7: Output membership activity.

Rule 1	$\min(0.0;0.52) = 0.0$
Rule 2	$\min(0.0;0.48) = 0.0$
Rule 3	$\min(0.0;0.0) = 0.0$
Rule 4	$\min(0.44;0.52) = 0.44$
Rule 5	$\min(0.44;0.48) = 0.44$
Rule 6	$\min(0.44;0.0) = 0.0$
Rule 7	$\min(0.56;0.52) = 0.52$
Rule 8	$\min(0.56;0.48) = 0.48$
Rule 9	$\min(0.56;0.0) = 0.0$

$$H_{Decelerate} = \max(0.0;0.0;0.0;0.0;0.0) = 0.0$$

$$H_{Constant} = \max(0.44;0.44;0.48) = 0.48$$

$$H_{Accelerate} = \max(0.52) = 0.52$$

3.1.5 Defuzzification

The resulting fuzzy set needs to be transformed into a number that can be sent for processing as a control signal; this is called defuzzification. There are numerous techniques for defuzzification such as Center of Gravity, Bisector of Area, and Mean of Maxima. However, we proceeded with the first method Abscissa, under the Center of Gravity. The output value X can be calculated using the formula:

$$X = \frac{\sum_i \mu(x_i) x_i}{\sum_i \mu(x_i)} \quad (3)$$

where:

$\mu(x_i)$: the membership value of the membership function

x_i : a running point in the discrete universe

Figure 8 exposes the final aggregated fuzzy set for the example from section 3.1.2 and the final out-

put value (delta acceleration), which then will process as a control signal. The controller output is: $\Delta a = 0.06 \text{ [cm/s}^2\text{]}$

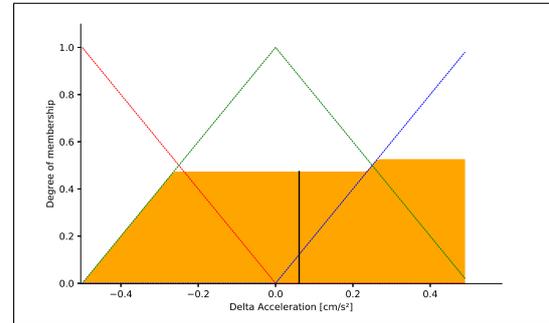


Figure 8: Aggregated membership and result (line).

3.1.6 Postprocessing

Output scaling is also relevant. In most cases, the output value needs to be scaled to physical units. In our case, the controller output value is a change of acceleration. Since we are not able to send an acceleration command to the speed motor, we will use a low-level controller (based upon motor calibration and desired response time) to convert the controller output into a value that can be sent to the motor. The low-level control equations are shown in section 3.2.

The block diagram for controlling AutoMiny ACC using a Fuzzy logic approach and steering using a PID controller can be seen in Figure 9. When applying the ACC, the lead car speed is taken as the desired speed while the desired distance is set manually.

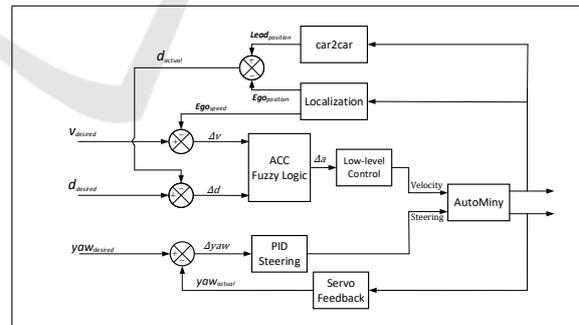


Figure 9: AutoMiny control block diagram with Fuzzy ACC.

3.2 Designing of Low-Level Control

Low-Level Control (LLC) is used to map the output of the ACC from acceleration to a speed command that can be fed to the motor. The equation of this control is based on both motor calibration curve and the desired response time. However, the same LLC is employed

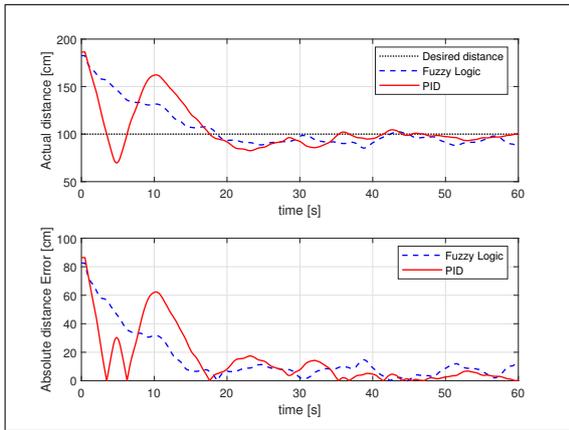


Figure 11: Actual distance and the absolute distance error during response time testing; both controllers are activated automatically when $\Delta d \leq 200$ [cm].

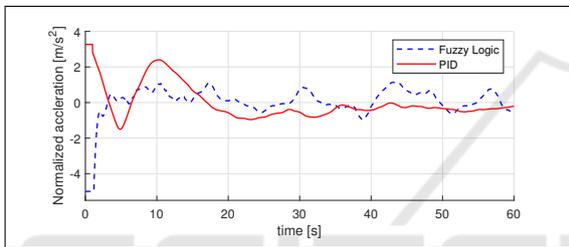


Figure 12: Actual output for both controllers during response time testing.

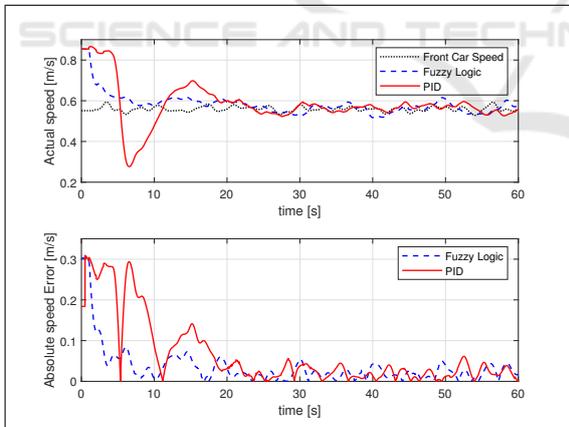


Figure 13: Actual speed and the absolute speed error during response time testing.

The output of the distance PID controller is acceleration, therefore controlling the distance involves internally adjusting the speed of the car based on the PID output. Moreover, during the experiment, the desired distance was constant. Thus, we can compare the car velocity changes with both controllers. Figure 13 shows the actual velocity and absolute velocity error.

Table 5: Root Mean Squared Error and Standard Deviation for distance, speed, and acceleration for both controllers during the response time test.

	e_{dis}		e_{vel}		e_{acc}	
	RMS	SD	RMS	SD	RMS	SD
FL	22.6906	22.1361	0.0699	0.0655	0.0061	0.0049
PID	23.4570	22.9583	0.1097	0.1078	0.0234	0.0229

In order to summarize the plots information in Figures 11, 12, and 13, the Root Mean Squared Error and the Standard Deviation for distance, speed, and acceleration of each controller are shown in Table 5. We can note that both controllers have approximately the same values. Nevertheless, from plots, we can distinguish that the fuzzy logic controller is more stable while transitioning.

4.1.2 Change of Desired Distance

In this experiment, the initial parameters were granted and set as follows:

- Lead car initial speed = 0.75 [m/s]
- Ego car initial speed = 0.85 [m/s]
- Initial desired distance = 100 [cm]
- ACC activates automatically when $\Delta d \leq 200$ [cm]

During the experiments, the desired distance was changed from 100 [cm] to 160 [cm] and back to 100 [cm] in steps of 30 [s] while the leading vehicle stayed driving at its initial constant speed. The idea was to witness the response of both distance PID controller and the fuzzy logic controller for desired distance changes and establish which one has a better rejoinder in the same implementation condition.

Figure 14 shows in the first plot the actual distance behavior for both controllers while changing the desired distance. The second plot shows the absolute error in the distance for both controllers. We can see that both controllers reacted to the changes in the desired distance; still, the fuzzy controller had less error than the PID one, which means it was more dynamic.

Figure 15 shows both controllers normalized output. We can figure that the fuzzy logic controller has a more stable response to the changes in the desired distance compared to the distance PID controller.

In Figure 16, we can see the actual (measured) velocity and the absolute velocity error for both controllers. We can observe both controllers' suitability to control the ego car speed in a proper response. Nevertheless, the primary controlled variable in this experiment was the distance, and the fuzzy logic controller showed more stable behavior.

Again, we summarize the plots information of Figures 14, 15, and 16 in Table 6 where the Root

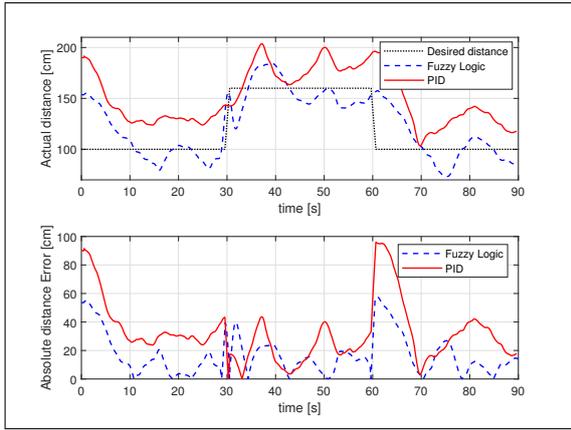


Figure 14: Actual distance and the absolute distance error as a consequence of changing the desired distance; the desired distance was changed from 100 [cm] to 160 [cm] and back to 100 [cm] in steps of 30 [s] while the leading vehicle stayed driving at its initial constant speed.

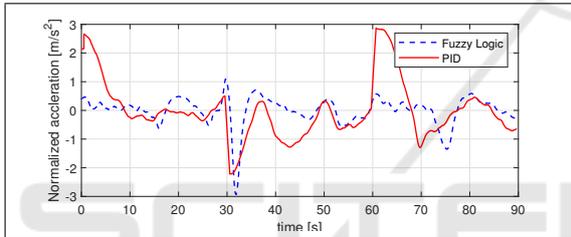


Figure 15: Actual output for both controllers as a consequence of changing the desired distance. The desired distance was modified at 30 [s] and 60 [s] demanding a sharp decelerate or accelerate. The fuzzy logic controller responded more gently than the PID one.

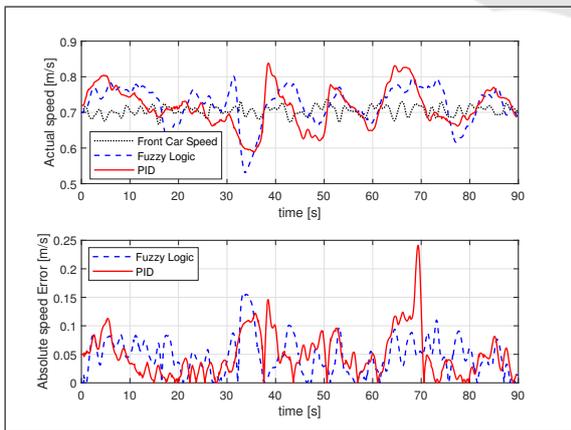


Figure 16: Actual speed and the absolute speed error as a consequence of changing the desired distance. The desired distance was modified at 30 [s] and 60 [s] demanding sharp changes in speed.

Mean Squared Error and the Standard Deviation for distance, speed, and acceleration of each controller

Table 6: Root Mean Squared Error and Standard Deviation for distance, speed, and acceleration for both controllers as a consequence of changing the desired distance.

	e_{dis}		e_{vel}		e_{acc}	
	RMS	SD	RMS	SD	RMS	SD
FL	22.2484	21.9750	0.0850	0.0842	0.0066	0.0051
PID	39.0971	22.6541	0.0695	0.0674	0.0390	0.0226

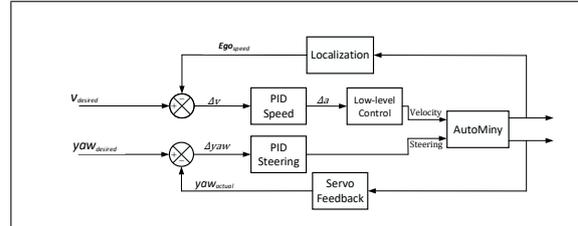


Figure 17: AutoMiny control block diagram with PID speed control.

is measured. Here, we can note that both controllers could control the distance and keep the error small. Nevertheless, Figure 15 proved that the fuzzy logic controller had a more stable response to the changes in the desired controlled variable. As a conclusion of this analysis, we found that the fuzzy logic controller had a better performance adjusting the desired distance to a dynamic obstacle moving with a constant speed.

4.2 Velocity Control Mode

For this experiment, a standard speed PID controller was designed for the ego car in order to compare the velocity control mode between the fuzzy logic controller and the speed PID controller. Figure 17 shows the final block diagram for AutoMiny control after implementing the speed PID controller.

The initial parameters in this experiment were set as follows:

- Lead car initial speed = 0.5 [m/s]
- Ego car initial speed = 0.85 [m/s]
- Initial desired distance = 120 [cm]
- ACC activates automatically when $\Delta d \leq 200$ [cm]

During the experiment, the dynamic target velocity was changed from 0.5 [m/s] to 0.75 [m/s] and back to 0.5 [m/s] in steps of 60 [s] while the desired distance (the distance to the front car) was constant. The idea is to test the response of both the speed PID controller and the fuzzy logic controller and ascertain which one has a more solid response in the same implementation condition. Figure 18 shows in the first plot the actual velocity behavior for both controllers and while changing the target speed. The second plot

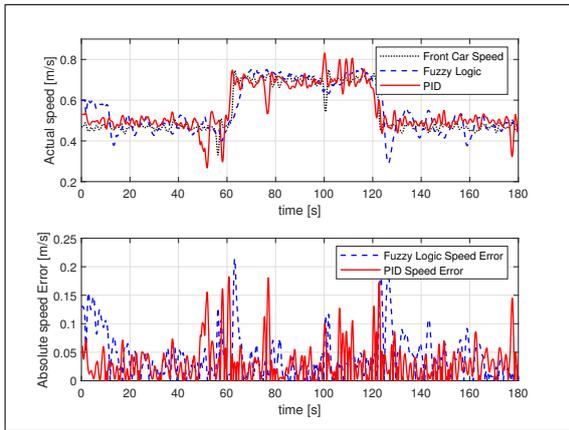


Figure 18: Actual speed and the absolute speed error as a consequence of changing the desired speed. The desired velocity was changed from 0.5 [m/s] to 0.75 [m/s] and back to 0.5 [m/s] in steps of 60 [s] while the desired distance remain constant.

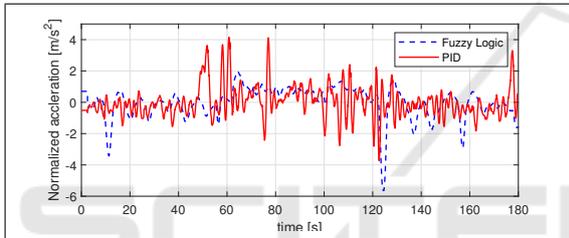


Figure 19: Actual output for both controllers as a consequence of changing the desired speed. The desired velocity was modified at 60 [s] and 120 [s] demanding a sharp decelerate or accelerate. Both controllers responded significantly.

shows the absolute error in the velocity for both controllers. It is notable that both controllers reacted in almost the same way; however, the PID controller oscillated more than the fuzzy logic controller.

Figure 19 shows both controllers' normalized output (acceleration) versus time and demonstrated that the PID controller output oscillated. This means that such a system might not be suitable to be implemented in a real car even though it does control the speed significantly.

In Figure 20, we plot the actual distance and distance absolute error in both the speed PID controller and the fuzzy logic one. The figure shows that while the fuzzy logic controller approached the desired distance, it still could not adequately control it, while the speed PID controller was completely unable to regulate the distance during speed control mode.

Finally, we summarize the information of Figures 18, 19, and 20, the Root Mean Squared Error and the Standard Deviation for distance, speed, and acceleration of each controller in Table 7. We can remark that

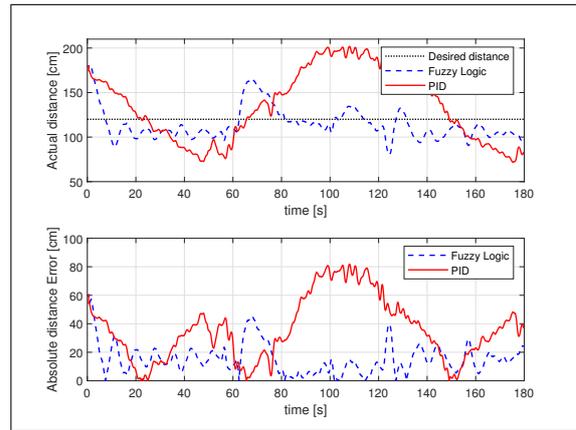


Figure 20: Actual distance and the absolute distance error as a consequence of changing the desired speed. The desired velocity was modified at 60 [s] and 120 [s]. The fuzzy controller could control the desired distance as a consequence of changing the desired speed.

Table 7: Root Mean Squared Error and Standard Deviation for distance, speed, and acceleration for both controllers as a consequence of changing the desired speed.

	e_{dis}		e_{vel}		e_{acc}	
	RMS	SD	RMS	SD	RMS	SD
FL	18.8717	17.9386	0.0720	0.0711	0.0092	0.0069
PID	52.9020	39.5351	0.0561	0.0557	0.0101	0.0101

both controllers could control the velocity and maintain a small error during transitioning. However, we recognize that the fuzzy controller responded to the changes in desired controlled variable smoothly while maintaining a small distance error.

5 CONCLUSIONS

This paper proposes a fuzzy logic-based Adaptive Cruise Controller. Chapter 1 introduced the problem and defined the primary goals. Chapter 2, briefly described the hardware used throughout this experiments. In Chapter 3, we presented description of developing an Adaptive Cruise Controller using Fuzzy Logic. Finally, in chapter 4, we evaluated the controller against a distance PID and a velocity PID using a second leading model car in a lab environment on a race track.

Experiment results showed that the tracking vehicle follows a leading vehicle gently by controlling both speed and distance even when their desired values are changed during operation. This indicates the possibility of constructing an independent desired behavior per state—in the appropriate environment and condition—which can take into account other important driveability factors such as the comfort of acceler-

ation rate or optimal energy consumption. Challenges with these controlling approaches rely on the fact that fuzzy controllers have many adjustable variables that must be calibrated by hand. Depending on the complexity of the desired behavior, the number of calibration variables can be more than triple the parameters on a conventional PID controller. Nevertheless, we show that the trade-off between controller simplicity and performance of the proposed fuzzy controller is advantageous for ACC systems.

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