

Design and Validation of Reversing Assistant Based on Extreme Learning Machine

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As an important function of the advanced driver assistance system (ADAS), the reversing assistant (RA) achieves trajectory retracing by applying accurate position estimation and tracking control. To overcome the problem of the modeling complexity in dead reckoning for the reversing assistant function, the heading angular rate is compensated by using the extreme learning machine (ELM) to improve the positioning accuracy. In addition, considering the time delay of the steering system, a tracking controller with a feed-forward of the recorded steering angle and a self-tuning PID feedback controller is designed based on the preview-and-following scheme. Vehicle experiments under various reversing scenarios prove that the proposed positioning method and tracking control scheme are effective, the overall lateral error is less than 10 cm, and the heading angle error is less than 1°, which meets the requirements of performance indicators.

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1 INTRODUCTION

In order to improve driving safety and comfort, a fully autonomous reversing assistant (RA) function is developed and designed by automotive engineers. The merit of the RA function can make the vehicle automatically reverse back to the starting position of the original route with a maximum support of 50 m, and therefore, it is quite helpful for unskilled drivers, especially under some complicated driving scenarios such as narrow roads.

The core techniques of the RA function include vehicle position estimation and trajectory tracking control. Currently, commonly used vehicle positioning technologies include dead reckoning (Skog and Handel, 2009; Alvarez et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2014), inertial navigation (Woodman, 2007; Leppäkoski et al., 2013), satellite positioning (Leppäkoski et al., 2013; Jiménez et al., 2014; Li et al., 2022), visual positioning (Woodman, 2007; Beauregard, 2009), and lidar-based positioning (Shin et al., 2010; Hess et al., 2016). Each method has its own advantages and shortage and can be selected according to the specific application scenario. Among them, dead reckoning is favored because of its advantages such as no external sensor, low cost, fast sampling frequency, and high short-time positioning accuracy. However, its long-distance positioning deviation is large due to the accumulation of systematic and non-systematic errors. To overcome the aforementioned problems, the mainstream approach is to use multi-source and multi-sensor information fusion technology to integrate other positioning information and dead reckoning information, to achieve the overall positioning accuracy (Alvarez et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2015; Jian et al., 2020). In addition, there are also attempts to improve

positioning accuracy by compensating and optimizing the angle information in dead reckoning (Tian et al., 2014; Chen et al., 2016; Ho et al., 2016). For tracking control, geometric relation-based control methods (Coulter 1992; as the change of y

Chen et al., 2016; Ho et al., 2016). For tracking control, geometric relation-based control methods (Coulter, 1992; Thrun et al., 2006; Li et al., 2021a; Le et al., 2021), model-based control methods (Guo and Fancher, 1983; Ziegler et al., 2014; Bayuwindra et al., 2016), and preview-and-following theory-based control methods (Guo and Guan, 1993; Falcone et al., 2007; Marino et al., 2011; Shen et al., 2020) are commonly used at present.

Recently, machine learning techniques have attained much attention in many research fields, such as data-driven modeling (Ourmazd, 2020; Cui et al., 2021), prediction (Huang et al., 2006; Liu et al., 2019; Zhou et al., 2021), control (Kang and Gao, 2020; Zhou et al., 2021; Wu et al., 2022), and fault diagnosis (He and Kusiak, 2017; Li et al., 2021b). Machine learning allows a controller to improve its performance by learning from previous events, in the same way humans learn from experiences. Due to the system complexity of the ADAS, the traditional designs based on the mechanism analysis become more difficult, and then the machine learning techniques have been well studied and gradually adopted (Moujahid et al., 2018). As an efficient learning algorithm with lower computational burden, an extreme learning machine (ELM) has gained much attention in ADAS. The ELM is mainly designed for training single hidden layer feed-forward neural networks, and its hidden nodes are randomly initiated, and then determined without timeconsuming iteratively tuning (Huang et al., 2006, 2015).

Based on the aforementioned analysis, in view of the requirement of low cost and high precision of RA positioning scheme, a dead reckoning method with a redundant design based on vehicle signals such as wheel speed and front-wheel angle is proposed; at the same time, in order to compensate the accumulated errors caused by the internal and external errors of the system, the ELM is introduced to correct the heading angle and improve the overall positioning accuracy. In terms of tracking control, considering the characteristics of the RA function and engineering needs, the preview-and-following control scheme is used to realize tracking, namely, using the current vehicle position and vehicle motion to calculate the vehicle position at a certain amount of preview time, and the target tracking point of the desired trajectory is determined based on the vehicle position at the preview point, which can deal with time delay greatly; on the basis of the preview, the following controller is designed by using a feed-forward plus self-tuning PID feedback control algorithm. Finally, functional verification is carried out in different scenarios. Experimental results demonstrate that the positioning and control method designed in this study is effective, and the key performance indexes such as lateral error and heading angle error meet the design requirements.

2 DEAD RECKONING AND COMPENSATION

Dead reckoning calculates the location and the heading of the vehicle's center of gravity (CG) based on vehicle signals such as four-wheel speeds and steering wheel angle. Also a confidence evaluation method of the CG position was designed to avoid the increase in positioning error due to the slip of individual wheels. At the same time, considering the unpredictable disturbance such as the change of wheel diameter caused by load and the uneven ground, the accurate position estimation model is difficult to be established. Then, an extreme learning machine is adopted to compensate for the model error to improve the positioning accuracy.

2.1 Dead Reckoning Based on Yaw Angle

The schematic diagram of the vehicle coordinates is illustrated in **Figure 1**. The CG of the vehicle starting time is taken as the origin of coordinates. At low speed, the sideslip angle of the CG is ignored; the yaw rate of the body is calculated according to the Ackerman steering relation and the average yaw rate of the four wheels:

$$R = \frac{L}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\tan \delta_{\rm fr}} + \frac{1}{\tan \delta_{\rm fl}} \right),\tag{1}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \omega_{\rm fl} \\ \omega_{\rm fr} \\ \omega_{\rm rr} \\ \omega_{\rm rl} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\nu_{\rm fl} dt}{\operatorname{sign} \left(R + \frac{W}{2} \right)} \sqrt{\left(R + \frac{W}{2} \right)^2 + L^2} \\ \frac{\nu_{\rm fr} dt}{\operatorname{sign} \left(R - \frac{W}{2} \right)} \sqrt{\left(R - \frac{W}{2} \right)^2 + L^2} \\ \frac{\frac{\nu_{\rm rr} dt}{\operatorname{sign} \left(R - \frac{W}{2} \right)} \\ \frac{\frac{\nu_{\rm rr} dt}{\operatorname{sign} \left(R - \frac{W}{2} \right)} \\ \frac{\frac{\nu_{\rm rl} dt}{\operatorname{sign} \left(R + \frac{W}{2} \right)} \end{bmatrix}}, \quad (2)$$



$$\omega = \frac{1}{4} \left(\omega_{\rm fl} + \omega_{\rm fr} + \omega_{\rm rr} + \omega_{\rm rl} \right), \tag{3}$$

where *L* and *W* denote the wheel base and the wheel track, respectively; δ denotes the steering angle of the wheel, *R* and *v* are the turning radius and the wheel speed, respectively; ω with and without subscripts are the yaw rate of the specified wheel and the vehicle body, respectively; dt is the sampling time; and the subscripts of the notations such as fl, fr, rl, and rr throughout the article denote the front-left, front-right, rear-left, and rear-right wheels, respectively.

Based on the CG position at the last moment, the initial position of the four wheels was calculated:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_N(i-1) \\ y_N(i-1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{CG}(i-1) \\ y_{CG}(i-1) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \cos\psi(i-1) & \sin\psi(i-1) \\ -\sin\psi(i-1) & \cos\psi(i-1) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{k_1W}{2} \\ k_2L \end{bmatrix},$$
(4)

where (x, y) denote the coordinate positions and ψ is the yaw angle, the subscript N = 1, 2, 3, and 4 represents the front-left, front-right, rear-right, and rear-left wheel, respectively; and

$$\begin{cases} k_1 = -1, & k_2 = 1, \text{ if } N = 1\\ k_1 = 1, & k_2 = 1, \text{ if } N = 2\\ k_1 = 1, & k_2 = -1, \text{ if } N = 3\\ k_1 = -1, & k_2 = -1, \text{ if } N = 4. \end{cases}$$
(5)

Furthermore, the four-wheel positions at the current time can be calculated on the basis of no slip assumption, that is,

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1(i) \\ y_1(i) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1(i-1) \\ y_1(i-1) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \sin(\psi(i-1) + \delta_{fl}) \\ \cos(\psi(i-1) + \delta_{fl}) \end{bmatrix} v_{fl} dt,$$
(6a)

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_2(i) \\ y_2(i) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2(i-1) \\ y_2(i-1) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \sin(\psi(i-1) + \delta_{\rm fr}) \\ \cos(\psi(i-1) + \delta_{\rm fr}) \end{bmatrix} v_{\rm fr} dt, \tag{6b}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_3(i) \\ y_3(i) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_3(i-1) \\ y_3(i-1) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \sin\psi(i-1) \\ \cos\psi(i-1) \end{bmatrix} v_{\rm rr} dt,$$
 (6c)

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_4(i)\\ y_4(i) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_4(i-1)\\ y_4(i-1) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \sin\psi(i-1)\\ \cos\psi(i-1) \end{bmatrix} v_{\rm rl} dt, \tag{6d}$$

$$\psi(i) = \psi(i-1) + \omega dt.$$
 (6e)

The four virtual vehicle CG positions $(x_{CG,N}, y_{CG,N})$ are calculated according to the four-wheel positions with the geometric relationship and the body direction:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{\mathrm{CG,N}}(i) \\ y_{\mathrm{CG,N}}(i) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_N(i) \\ y_N(i) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \cos\psi(i) & \sin\psi(i) \\ -\sin\psi(i) & \cos\psi(i) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{k_1W}{2} \\ k_2L \end{bmatrix},$$
(7)

where k_1 and k_2 are defined in **Equation 5**. Finally, the CG position can be obtained by the following relations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{\rm CG}(i) \\ y_{\rm CG}(i) \\ \psi_{\rm CG}(i) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{4} \sum_{N=1}^{4} x_{\rm CG,N}(i) \\ \frac{1}{4} \sum_{N=1}^{4} y_{\rm CG,N}(i) \\ \psi(i) \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (8)



At the same time, the redundant design is considered to avoid large slips of the individual wheel or large positioning deviations caused by the low tire pressure and the signal disturbance. The evaluation index d_{CN} is defined as follows:

$$d_{\rm C,N} = \sqrt{(x_N - x_{\rm CG})^2 + (y_N - y_{\rm CG})^2}, \quad N = 1, 2, 3, 4,$$
 (9)

and take the front-left wheel (i.e., N = 1), for example (same with other wheels), if $d_{C,1} > (d_{C,2} + d_{C,3} + d_{C,4})/3$, then this value will be regarded as poor confidence and it will be removed. The final CG position with redundant design will use the following calculation:

$$\begin{cases} x_{\rm CG} = \frac{1}{3} \left(x_2 + x_3 + x_4 \right) \\ y_{\rm CG} = \frac{1}{3} \left(y_2 + y_3 + y_4 \right). \end{cases}$$
(10)

2.2 Compensation Scheme Design-Based on ELM

For long-distance dead reckoning, the estimation of the heading angle determines the overall positioning accuracy. In some actual testing scenarios, it is found that due to the mechanical structure of the steering system gap, left and right asymmetry, positioning angle changes, and other factors, the left and right front wheel angle mapping from the steering wheel angle has errors, which leads to inaccurate heading angular rate and indirectly leads to the large cumulative errors in position estimation. Considering the internal parameters of the system affecting the accuracy of heading angular rate cannot be obtained and the compensation model is difficult to be established, an extreme learning machine (ELM) based estimation algorithm is introduced in this study to improve the estimation accuracy of the heading angular rate. The general structure of the ELM can be found in **Figure 2**.

ELM is also referred to as generalized single-hidden layer feedforward neural networks (FNN) where the hidden layer need not be neuron alike (Huang et al., 2015). Compared to conventional FNN learning methods, ELM adopts Moore–Penrose generalized inverse to set its weights instead of the gradient-based backpropagation strategy. Essentially, the learning process can be implemented without iteratively tuning hidden nodes, and it achieves better generalization performance by minimizing both the training error and the norm of output weights. Therefore, ELM has higher efficiency and generalization ability than other learning methods. Typically, the output function of the ELM is defined as follows:

$$\mathbf{y} = f_{n_h}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^{n_h} \mathbf{w}_j h_j(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{w},$$
(11)

where $\mathbf{w} = [\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_{n_h}]^T$ denotes the output weight vector between the hidden layer of n_h nodes and the *m* output nodes, $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) = [h_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, h_{n_h}(\mathbf{x})]$ is the feature mapping function. In this study, the training dataset is selected with $\mathbf{x} = [v_{rl} \quad v_{rr} \quad \theta \quad \dot{\theta}]^T$, where input states include rear-left and rear-right wheel speed, steering wheel angle, and their difference, respectively; the output **y** is the error between the calculated yaw rate and the measured yaw rate based on the high-precision inertial navigation. The optimal weights \mathbf{w}^* between the hidden layer and the output layer are calculated by solving the following cost:

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}\in\mathbb{R}^{n_h\times m}}\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + \frac{C}{2} \|H\mathbf{w} - T\|^2,$$
(12)

where *H* denotes the hidden layer output matrix, *T* is the training goal matrix, and *C* is regularization coefficient; the solution is as follows:

$$\mathbf{w}^* = \left(H^T H + \frac{I}{C}\right)^{-1} H^T T,$$
(13)

where *I* is an identity matrix of n_h dimension. Thus, the final ELM-based output for the heading angular rate is

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = f_{n_h}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{w}^*.$$
(14)

The final vehicle yaw rate estimation is the combination of the calculated yaw rate and the heading angular rate calculation error output by ELM.

2.3 Real Vehicle Validation for Dead Reckoning

In order to verify the effectiveness of the ELM-based compensation strategy, vehicle experiments have been carried out under different conditions including straight line, S-shaped, and right-angle bending. The on-board measurement based on a high-precision global position system (GPS) is used for the baseline benchmark, and the positioning effects with and without ELM compensation have been evaluated, as shown in **Figures 3–5**.

It is obvious from **Figures 3–5** that the error accumulation of the dead reckoning is small and the compensation effect is not obvious in the initial short distance. However, as the distance goes far, the dead reckoning without compensation deviates from the GPS measured value, the cumulative error gradually increases, and the positioning accuracy decreases. Even the error becomes more obvious when encountering a large corner. Moreover,



FIGURE 3 | Comparison result of the dead reckoning test under straight line conditions.



FIGURE 4 | Comparison result of the dead reckoning test under S-shaped condition.



bending condition.

the dead reckoning with ELM compensation can always be stable near the measured value with a small error. Although the error increases after a large corner, it can quickly return to the true value after the corner, which improves stability and reliability.

3 REVERSING ASSISTANT CONTROLLER DESIGN

RA can record the vehicle's forward track point when the recording condition is satisfied. If the RA function is activated, the system controls the vehicle to follow the recorded track automatically and completes the reverse drive.

3.1 Preview Point Determination

The existence of time delay and external disturbance in the steering system will lead to lag effects in vehicle reversing tracking control, especially when requiring a large turning angle, and therefore leads to the large following error. The preview strategy is used in this study to solve this problem and, based on the vehicle's current position and state, to calculate its position after a certain previewing time.

As shown in **Figure 6**, the current position of the vehicle is $PntV(x, y, \varphi)$, its position at the preview point is $PntV_p(x_p, y_p, \varphi_p)$, and if $|\omega| < 0.001$ rad, then the vehicle is identified to be driving in a straight line:

$$x_p = x - v t_p \sin \psi, \tag{15a}$$

$$y_p = y - vt_p \cos \psi, \tag{15b}$$



$$\psi_p = \psi. \tag{15c}$$

On the contrary, if $|\omega| \ge 0.001$ rad, vehicle position at the preview point is

$$x_p = x + v \left(\sin \left(\psi + \omega t_p \right) - \sin \psi \right) / \omega, \tag{16a}$$

$$y_p = y - v \left(\cos\left(\psi + \omega t_p\right) - \cos\psi \right) / \omega, \tag{16b}$$

$$\psi_p = \psi + \omega t_p, \tag{16c}$$

where t_p is preview time.

3.2 Target Track Point Selection

The closest tracking point to the vehicle preview point, denoted by *PntN*, is determined via the recorded forward tracking point sequence and vehicle preview position. According to the relative position relationship between the vehicle preview point and the closest point, the front point *PntF* and the rear point *PntR* can be determined, and then the target tracking point *PntM* is finally obtained. The decision procedure of the target tracking point is illustrated in **Figure 7**.

3.3 Calculation of Lateral and Heading Deviation

Once the target tracking point is determined, the lateral error Δy and heading angle error $\Delta \psi$ of the target tracking point and the vehicle preview point can be calculated. As shown in **Figure 8**, denote the coordinate of the target point *PntM* as (x_r, y_r, φ_r) and the vehicle preview point $PntV_p$ as (x_v, y_v, φ_v) , there exists the following relations:

$$\begin{cases} \Delta y = (y_r - y_v) \cos \psi_r - (x_r - x_v) \sin \psi_v \\ \Delta \psi = \psi_r - \psi_v, \end{cases}$$
(17)

where the heading angle error is normalized to $[-\pi, \pi]$.

3.4 RA Controller Design

The implementation of the RA function mainly depends on the accuracy of the tracking control by adjusting the steering angle. The recorded steering angle when driving forward, denoted as sw_e , is used as a reference steering wheel angle at the corresponding position, which provides the feed-forward control input. In addition, considering the external interference and other factors, a parameter adaptive PID feedback control scheme is designed for correction and compensation. The feed-forward and the feedback control variables are given as follows:

$$\begin{cases} u_{\rm ff} = sw_e \\ u_{\rm fb} = \left(\frac{k_{pd}\Delta y}{\cos\Delta\psi} + \frac{k_{p\psi}\Delta\psi}{\cos\Delta\psi}\right) + k_i \int \Delta y dt + k_d \Delta y \end{cases}$$
(18)

where the continuous smooth self-tuning of the proportion parameter is determined by the heading angle error, namely, when the heading angle error is small, the following effect is





great, and the proportion coefficient becomes smaller to reduce overshoot and oscillation; on the contrary, when the following effect is poor and the heading angle error becomes larger, the proportion parameter becomes larger accordingly, which improves the response speed and rapidly follows the desired trajectory.

4 VEHICLE TEST AND VALIDATION

The effectiveness of dead reckoning and the RA control method is verified in this section. The real vehicle tests were carried out in some typical conditions including straight line, S-shaped, and right-angle bending, based on an SUV model. The experimental results are shown in **Figures 9–13**.

The straight line RA test result is illustrated in **Figure 9**. In this straight line test, when the vehicle moves about 38 m and around 36 s, the RA state changes from 1 to 2 and the RA function is activated, and the vehicle starts reversing at a fixed speed of 3 km/h. In the whole process, the wheel angle control quantity is smooth, the forward and reverse tracks coincide, with the lateral error being less than 0.2 cm and the heading angle error being less than 0.2°. Although a few sample periods have a jump, it is due to the temporary jump of each value including the target track point and vehicle preview point, and because of the mechanical filtering effect on the high-frequency signal, there is no sudden change in the intuitive perception.

As shown in **Figure 10**, in the S-shaped RA scenario, the forward S-shaped trajectory and the reverse trajectory coincide, and the control quantity is smooth without jitter. Although the deviation becomes larger when reversing due to the failure of the optimal preview time, the lateral error





is always less than 3 cm, and the heading angle error is less than 1°.

As shown in **Figure 11**, in the right-angle bending RA scenario, although the error increases at the turning point, the forward trajectory coincides with the reverse trajectory, and the

control quantity is smooth without jitter, the lateral error is always less than 2 cm, and the heading angle error is less than 0.5°.

As shown in **Figure 12**, there is a high degree of convergence between the forward trajectory and the reverse trajectory. In the tracking process, due to the external impact when crossing the





speed belt, the steering wheel angle oscillates temporarily after the impact on the steering system due to the driver's hands off, which leads to the jitter of the point given by the dead reckoning, but it converges quickly. In the process of being hit by the speed bump, the lateral error and heading angle error are kept to a small level.

As shown in **Figure 13**, after a right-angle bending, the vehicle enters about 8% slope consisting of both longitudinal and lateral slopes. In the whole process, the forward trajectory and reverse trajectory have a high degree of overlap. On the ramp, the lateral error is less than 2 cm, and the heading angle error is less than 1°. The left and right wheel bearing are different due to the existence of the lateral slope, which leads to a small vibration in the steering wheel and a certain degree of the dead reckoning jitter; error has also been accumulated, directly leading to larger error when it enters the flat road and turns right-angle bending, but the lateral error and the heading angle error are always controlled in a small level.



5 CONCLUSION

In this study, the dead reckoning method with redundant design is proposed, which makes full use of the information of four wheels and eliminates the influence of slip of the wheels on positioning. At the same time, in view of the modeling complexity for position estimation, an ELM is introduced to estimate the heading angular rate and compensate for the dead reckoning. As for tracking control, a feed-forward and feedback PID controller with preview is designed. The proposed positioning and tracking control methods are proved effective, and the design satisfies the requirements of performance indexes via a variety of scenario tests. In addition, considering the mechanical wear and aging with the long-term use of the vehicle system, the ELMbased compensation method may face performance degradation problems; therefore, the future work will focus on the online update of the compensation model to improve the reliability of the RA function.

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DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The raw data supporting the conclusion of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

HD: conceptualization, investigation, experimental data analysis, and original draft writing; YY: extreme learning machine algorithm, experimental data collection, and original draft writing; MZ: tracking controller validation and experimental data analysis; and MK: conceptualization, control algorithm design, and review and editing.

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Conflict of Interest: HD, YY, and MZ were employed by Guangzhou Automobile Group Co., Ltd

The remaining author declares that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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