

# Hann Woei Ho

## Full Professor

School of Aeronautics, Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU)

**Nationality:** Malaysian

**Fluency:** Malay, English, Chinese



## About Me

My research focuses on bio-inspired vision and control, machine learning, advanced flight control, Micro Air Vehicle (MAV) design, and swarm. It involves creating autonomous MAVs by integrating theory and practice, which are extremely challenging, yielding numerous publications as the first/corresponding author, including IEEE Transactions on Robotics (**T-RO**), IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (**RA-L**), Aerospace Science and Technology (**AESCTE**), Robotics and Autonomous Systems (**RAS**), Journal of Aerospace Information Systems published by American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (**AIAA**), Robotics: Science and Systems (**RSS**), IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (**IROS**), and other prestigious journals. I have successfully secured several highly competitive national grants and been awarded various prizes in both national and international conferences/competitions, including two best paper awards and four technology challenge awards.

## Education

- 2013 – 2017**     **Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering**, Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), Delft, The Netherlands.
- 2010 – 2012**     **M.Sc. in Aerospace Engineering**, Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), Delft, The Netherlands. [Awarded *cum laude*]
- 2005 – 2009**     **B.Eng. in Aerospace Engineering**, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang, Malaysia. [Awarded *gold medal*]

## Working Experience

- 2026 – Present**     **Full Professor**, Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), China
- 2017 – 2026**     **Senior Lecturer (Permanent)**, USM
  - UAV Laboratory Manager, School of Aerospace Engineering.
  - Advisor for the Drone Club, USM.
- 2025 – 2026**     • Committee Member for the Safety & Health Unit, School of Aerospace Engineering.
- 2019 – 2024**     • Coordinator for the Career & Alumni Unit, School of Aerospace Engineering.
- 2018 – 2022**     • Advisor for the Penang Undergraduate Community Service (PUCS), USM.
- 2017 – 2023**     **Guest Researcher**, Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, TU Delft.
- 2019**     **Visiting Scholar**, Northwestern Polytechnical University, China.
- 2018 – 2019**     **University Associate**, Curtin University of Technology, Malaysia.
- 2010**     **Design Engineer**, Matromatic Handling Systems (M) SDN. BHD., Malaysia.
- 2009**     **Production Engineer**, Shimano Components (M) SDN. BHD., Malaysia.

## Grants and Research Papers Summary

Competitive Research Grants				Published Papers			
Grants	PI <sup>†</sup>	Co-PI	Total	Papers	Main*	Co-author	Total
National	2	2	4	Q1 & Q2	11	7	18
University	1	4	5	Q3 & Q4	4	2	6
Industry	1	2	3	Scopus, book, Conference	11	2	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>37</b>

<sup>†</sup> PI = Principal Investigator.

\*Main = First/Corresponding author.

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## Research Grants

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### Principal Investigator (PI)

1. **Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) [National-MoHE\*]**, *Formulation of a Novel Spiking Neural Network Architecture for Enhancing Event-based Visual Perception and Control of Agile Micro Air Vehicles in complex environments*, 2024-2026.
2. **External Agency [International]**, *Collaborative Research on Intelligent And Autonomous Unmanned Aerial Systems*, 2024-2025.
3. **Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) [National-MoHE\*]**, *Formulation of a Novel Online Target-oriented Navigation Method with Optical Flow for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Cluttered Environment*, 2020-2024.
4. **Short-Term Grant [University]**, *Autonomous landing of miniature Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) using monocular vision*, 2017-2020.

### Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)

5. **Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) [National-MoHE\*]**, *Formulation of Hierarchical Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Cooperative and Distributed Control of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Teams*, 2024-2026.
6. **External Agency [International]**, *Research on Advanced Aeronautical Technology and Aerial Robotics- Research Collaboration and Exchange Project on Aerospace Engineering*, 2023-2024.
7. **Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) [National-MoHE\*]**, *Formulation of On-line Actor-Critic Reinforcement Learning with Multivariate Splines for Autonomous Control of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles*, 2020-2022.
8. **Research University Grants (RUI) [University]**, *Development of Fully Autonomous MALE UAS for Monitoring and Surveillance Purposes (MALE UAS: Mid-altitude Long Endurance Unmanned Aerial System)*, 2020-2022.
9. **Research University Grants (RUI) [University]**, *Investigation into Perpetual Solar-Powered UAV Designs for Global Operation*, 2019-2022.
10. **Research University Grants (RUI) [University]**, *Seismic Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Study for Lahad Datu, Sabah*, 2018-2021.
11. **Short-Term Grant [University]**, *Development of YOLO on Drone based Deep Learning Method using High Performance Edge Computation for Palm Oil Tree Detection and Health Assessment*, 2023-2025.
12. **External Agency [Industry]**, *Research and Development with Lestari Aero Technology PLT-To Design, Develop, Test & Commission of Our Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Layang-layang & Lang Merah*, 2020-2021.

\*MoHE-Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia

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## Research Publications

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### Selected Articles

1. **H. W. Ho\***, G. C. H. E. de Croon, E. van Kampen, Q. P. Chu, and M. Mulder, *Adaptive gain control strategy for constant optical flow divergence landing*, IEEE Transactions on Robotics, 34(2):508-516, 2018.
2. Weijie Kuang, **Hann Woei Ho\***, Ye Zhou, Shahrel Azmin Suandi, ForaNavi: Insect-inspired Online Target-oriented Navigation for MAVs in Tree Plantations, IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, 10 (7): 7063-7069, 2025.
3. Nengbo Zhang, **Hann Woei Ho\***, Ye Zhou, MoCom: Motion-based Inter-MAV Visual Communication using Event Vision and Spiking Neural Networks, IEEE Transactions on Robotics, 2026 (Early Access).
4. **H. W. Ho**, Y. Zhou, *Incremental Nonlinear Dynamic Inversion based Optical Flow Control for Flying Robots: An Efficient Data-driven Approach*, in Robotics: Science and Systems, 2023 (**RSS 2023**) (Daegu, Republic of Korea, 2023).
5. **H. W. Ho\***, C. De Wagter, B. D. W. Remes, and G. C. H. E. de Croon, *Optical flow for self-supervised learning of obstacle appearance*, in IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems, 2015 (**IROS 2015**) (IEEE, Hamburg, Germany, 2015).
6. **H. W. Ho\***, C. De Wagter, B. D. W. Remes, and G. C. H. E. de Croon, *Optical-flow based self-supervised learning of obstacle appearance applied to MAV landing*, Robotics and Autonomous Systems, 100:78-94, 2018.

### Other Articles

7. Weijie Kuang, **Hann Woei Ho\***, Ye Zhou, *CPP-DIP: Multi-objective coverage path planning for MAVs in dispersed and irregular plantations*, Robotics and Autonomous Systems, 195, 105193, 2026.
8. Xu Shi, **Hann Woei Ho\***, and Weijie Kuang, *Obstacle-Aware Navigation for MAVs Using Constant Flow Divergence Control and Texton-Based Visual Cues*, Journal of Robotics, 1, 6651959, 2026.
9. Aohua Li, Ye Zhou, **Hann Woei Ho\***, *Acoustic-Enhanced Local Bearing Estimation using Low-cost Microphones for Micro Air Vehicle Swarms*, Biomimetic Intelligence and Robotics, 5(4), 100264, 2025.
10. Yongmei Dou, Ling Shuang Soh, **Hann Woei Ho\***, *Topology-Aware Line Guidance for Warehouse MAVs: Lightweight Junction-Driven Navigation with Real-Time Path Encoding and Multi-Path Adaptation*, Journal of Beijing Institute of Technology, 34(6), 612-626, 2025.
11. **Hann Woei Ho**, Ye Zhou, Yiting Feng, and Guido C.H.E. de Croon, *Optical Flow-based Control for Micro Air Vehicles: An Efficient Data-driven Incremental Nonlinear Dynamic Inversion Approach*, Autonomous Robots, 48, 22, 2024.
12. Yiting Feng, Ye Zhou, **Hann Woei Ho**, Hongyang Dong, Xiaowei Zhao, *Online adaptive critic designs with tensor product B-splines and incremental model techniques*, Journal of the Franklin Institute, 107357, 2024.
13. Weijie Kuang, **Hann Woei Ho\***, Ye Zhou, Shahrel Azmin Suandi, and Farzad Ismail *A comprehensive review on tree detection methods using point cloud and aerial imagery from unmanned aerial vehicles*, Computers and Electronics in Agriculture, 227, 109476, 2024.
14. Yiting Feng, Ye Zhou, and **Hann Woei Ho**, *Reinforcement learning based robust tracking control for unmanned helicopter with state constraints and input saturation*, Aerospace Science and Technology, 109549, 2024.

15. Wenjie Hu, Ye Zhou, **Hann Woei Ho** and Chun Zhang, *Double Critics and Double Actors Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient for Mobile Robot Navigation Using Adaptive Parameter Space Noise and Parallel Experience Replay*, IEEE Access, vol. 12, pp. 173192-173208, 2024.
16. Wenjie Hu, Ye Zhou, and **Hann Woei Ho**, *Mobile Robot Navigation Based on Noisy N-Step Dueling Double Deep Q-Network and Prioritized Experience Replay*, Electronics, 13(12), 2024.
17. Zhi Wei Lee, Wai Hoe Chin, and **Hann Woei Ho\***, *Air-to-air Micro Air Vehicle Interceptor with an Embedded Mechanism and Deep Learning*, Aerospace Science and Technology, 108192, 2023.
18. Yiting Feng, Ye Zhou, **Hann Woei Ho**, Nor Ashidi Mat Isa, *Reinforcement learning control with function approximation via multivariate simplex splines*, International Journal of Adaptive Control and Signal Processing, 2023.
19. H. Jiang, Y. Zhou, **H. W. Ho**, E. A. Bakar, *Modeling of two-stroke aviation piston engines for control applications*, Advances in Mechanical Engineering, 15(2), 16878132231153234, 2023.
20. Ye Zhou and **Hann Woei Ho**, *Online robot guidance and navigation in non-stationary environment with hybrid Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning*, Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence, 114, 105152, 2022.
21. Poh Ling Ching, Shu Chuan Tan, and **Hann Woei Ho\***, *Ultra-wideband Localization and Deep Learning based Plant Monitoring using Micro Air Vehicles*, AIAA Journal of Aerospace Information Systems, 1-12, 2022.
22. N.A.M. Yussof and **H.W. Ho\***, *Review of Water Leak Detection Methods in Smart Building Applications*, Buildings, 12(10):1535, 2022.
23. H. Jiang, Y. Zhou, **H. W. Ho**, *Aerodynamic Design and Evaluation of a Ducted Fan Lift System for VTOL Flying Cars*, Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Part A: Journal of Power and Energy, 09576509221106395, 2022.
24. Y. Zhou, **H. W. Ho\***, Q. Chu, *Extended Incremental nonlinear dynamic inversion for optical flow control of micro air vehicles*, Aerospace Science and Technology, 106889, 2021.
25. H. Y. Lee, **H. W. Ho\***, Y. Zhou, *Deep learning-based monocular obstacle avoidance for unmanned aerial vehicle navigation in tree plantations*, Journal of Intelligent and Robotic Systems, 101(1):1-18, 2021.
26. Seng Man Wong, **Hann Woei Ho\***, Mohd Zulkifly Abdullah, *Design and fabrication of a dual rotor-embedded wing vertical take-off and landing unmanned aerial vehicle*, Unmanned Systems, 9(01): 45-63, 2021.
27. B.H. Cheaw, **H. W. Ho\***, E. Abu Bakar, *Wing design, fabrication, and analysis for an X-wing flapping-Wing micro air vehicle*, Drones, 3: 65, 2019.
28. **H. W. Ho\***, G. C. H. E. de Croon, and Q. P. Chu, *Distance and velocity estimation using optical flow from a monocular camera*, International Journal of Micro Air Vehicles, 9(3):198-208, 2017.
29. G. C. H. E. de Croon, **H. W. Ho**, C. De Wagter, E. van Kampen, B. D. W. Remes, and Q. P. Chu, *Optic-flow based slope estimation for autonomous landing*, International Journal of Micro Air Vehicles, 5(4):287-298, 2013.

## Conference Papers

30. **H. W. Ho** and Y. Zhou, *Vertical Planetary Landing on Sloped Terrain Using Optical Flow Divergence Estimates*, in 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 2025, Sydney, Australia, p. 422-430.
31. **H. W. Ho** and Y. Zhou, *Frontal Target Approaching and Height Control of Micro Air Vehicles using Multi-perspective Optical Flow Observables*, in IEEE 20th International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering 2024 (CASE 2024) (Bari, Italy, 2024), p. 3754-3759.

32. A. Janarthanan, **H. W. Ho**, L. Gopal, V. Shanmugam, and W. K. Wong, *An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Framework Design for Autonomous Flight Path*, in International Conference on Smart Computing & Communications 2019 (ICSCC 2019) (Sarawak, Malaysia, 2019) p. 1-5.
33. **H. W. Ho\***, G. C. H. E. de Croon, and Q. P. Chu, *Distance and velocity estimation using optical flow from a monocular camera*, in International Micro Air Vehicle Conference and Competition 2016 (IMAV 2016) (Beijing, PR of China, 2016) p. 121-128. [**Best Paper Award Finalist**].
34. **H.W. Ho\*** and G. C. H. E. de Croon, *Characterization of flow field divergence for MAVs vertical control landing*, in AIAA Guidance, Navigation, and Control Conference (San Diego, California, USA, 2016) p. 0106.
35. G. C. H. E. de Croon, **H. W. Ho**, C. De Wagter, E. van Kampen, B. D. W. Remes, and Q. P. Chu, *Optic-flow based slope estimation for autonomous landing*, in International Micro Air Vehicle Conference and Competition 2013 (IMAV 2013) (Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile, Toulouse, France, 2013).
36. **H. W. Ho\***, Q. P. Chu, *Automatic Landing System of a Quadrotor UAV Using Visual Servoing*, in CEAS EuroGNC conference 2013 (Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands, 2013). [**Best Graduate Student Paper Award**].

## Books

37. **H. W. Ho\***, *Autonomous landing of Micro Air Vehicles through bio-inspired monocular vision*, Delft University of Technology, 2017. ISBN: 978-94-6186-818-3.

*\*corresponding authors*

## Selected Awards

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- 2025** Sanggar Sanjung Award, Journal Publication Category, USM [**University**].
- 2025** Outstanding Reviewer from Biomimetic Intelligence and Robotics in 2024 [**International**].
- 2024** Sanggar Sanjung Award, Journal Publication Category, USM [**University**].
- 2023** USM Excellent Service Award 2022 (“Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang 2022”) [**University**].
- 2023** Fifth place in the International Unmanned System Swarm Technology Competition (IUSC) [**International**].
- 2022** First runner-up of AIoT, FPGA & Embedded Systems Design Challenge in Innovate Malaysia 2022 “Guardian Of Area 51: Detecting, Tracking, And Intercepting Intruders From The Sky” [**National**].
- 2021** Winner of CREST Design Challenge in Innovate Malaysia 2021 “Plant Health Monitoring and Indoor Positioning for Micro Air Vehicles Using Deep Convolutional Neural Network and Ultra-Wideband” [**National**].
- 2021** IEM Best Paper Award in Innovate Malaysia 2021 “Plant Health Monitoring and Indoor Positioning for Micro Air Vehicles Using Deep Convolutional Neural Network and Ultra-Wideband” [**National**].
- 2021** Sanggar Sanjung Award, Journal Publication Category, USM [**University**].
- 2019** First runner-up in Petronas Technology Challenge 6 “Autonomous Drone Capable of Performing Ultrasonic Thickness (UT) Measurement at Height” [**National**].
- 2019** Sanggar Sanjung Award, Journal Publication Category, USM [**University**].
- 2018** Hadiah Sanjungan Award, Journal Publication Category, USM [**University**].
- 2016** Best Paper Award Finalist in International Micro Air Vehicle Competition and Conference “Distance and velocity estimation using optical flow from a monocular camera” [**International**].
- 2013** Best Graduate Student Paper in CEAS EuroGNC Conference “Automatic Landing System of a Quadrotor UAV Using Visual Servoing” [**International**].
- 2013** First prize in International Micro Air Vehicle competition 2013 (IMAV 2013) [**International**].
- 2012** Distinction/ Cum laude for MSc. in Aerospace Engineering, TU Delft [**University**].
- 2010** Academic Staff Training Scheme (ASTS), a fellowship co-funded by Malaysia Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and USM [**National**].
- 2009** USM Gold Medal for the best final year student in Aerospace Engineering [**University**].

## Other Income Generation

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### Consultation, Training, and Short Courses

- 2021-2023** *Providing Educational Services & Research Guidance In Robotics.*
- 2023-2024** *Delivering Academic Support & Research Mentorship In Robot Intelligence.*
- 2023** *Agricultural Drone Consultation.*

## Academic Activities

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### Editorial Role:

- 2024-2026** **Early career editorial board member**,  
Biomimetic Intelligence and Robotics (BIRob).
- 2026** **Associate Editor**,  
IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA).

### Professional Affiliations:

- 2025-Present** **Senior Member**,  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

**Invited Speaker:**

**2023**     **Plenary speaker,**  
in the 3rd International Conference on Unmanned Aerial System in Geomatics 2023  
(UASG 2023), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Conference Role:**

**2024**     **Session Co-chair,**  
in the 2024 IEEE 20th International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering  
(CASE 2024), Bari, Italy.

**Trainer - Certified Train-The-Trainer (TTT):**

**2021-2023**     *Introduction and Hands-on to Arduino*, professional training for industries:  
Western Digital, Analog Digital, Malaysia, etc.

**2024**     *Introduction to Aerial Robotics*, short course for Bachelor's students from China:  
Northwestern Polytechnical University, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and  
Astronautics, Harbin Institute of Technology, etc.

**2023**     *Intelligent Control & Future Smart Cities*, workshop for Bachelor's students from  
China: Foshan University.

**Reviewer:**

- International Journal of Robotics Research
- IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics
- IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics
- IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering
- IEEE Transactions on Cognitive and Developmental Systems
- IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters
- IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems
- etc.
- IEEE/CAA Journal of Automatica Sinica
- npj Robotics
- IEEE Transactions on Mechatronics
- Journal of Field Robotics
- IEEE ICRA & IEEE/RSJ IROS
- AIAA Journal of Aircraft
- Aerospace Science and Technology

**Supervision:**

Degree	Supervision Type	Ongoing	Graduated	Total
Ph.D.	Main Supervisor	3	-	3
	Co-Supervisor	1	1	2
M.Sc.	Main Supervisor	4	1	5
	Co-Supervisor	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>		8	3	11

**Teaching Courses**

1. **ESA412 Final Year Project** (Fourth-Year Engineering).
2. **ESA369 Flight Stability and Control** (Third-Year Engineering).
3. **ESA352 Modern Control for Autopilot** (Third-Year Engineering).
4. **ESA211 Aerospace Laboratory I** (Second-Year Engineering).