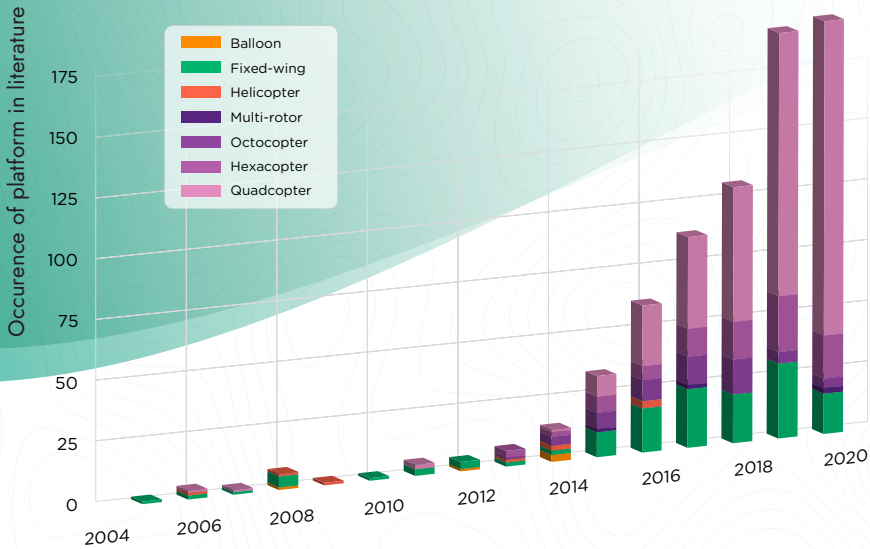




What are the different types of drone platforms used in academic studies?



The method

- Analyzed **73 systematic reviews** covering 8,536 primary studies from 2012-2020.
- Extracted which drone types each study used and tracked how that changed over time.
- Data up to 2020 because newer studies weren't included in most systematic reviews.

Findings

- Multi-rotor drones (mostly quadcopters) are responsible for nearly all the growth in UAV research since 2012.
- Their popularity grew while other types plateaued or disappeared entirely.
- Fixed-wing drones still get used for specific applications.
- Helicopters rarely used.



Drones in academic studies

A surprising gap:

Hybrid VTOL drones (the ones with wings that can also hover and take off vertically) barely show up in the research.

Why?

They might be too new or too experimental - or researchers just aren't using them yet.

The full story

Paper:

<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/10431744>



Database:

<https://platform.icaerus.eu/drone-technologies>

