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# **Development and design of a virtual running pacesetter**

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Report submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the module Project (E) 448 for the degree Baccalaureus in Engineering in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Stellenbosch University.

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# **Abstract**

## **English**

The running community has seen great improvements in the gear used to aid runners in their quests for being their best selves. However, current road running does not possess optimal pacing solutions. This project aims to develop and design an autonomous running pacing system for optimal running, moreso, for road and cross-country running. A way to source running route data is found. Then an autonomous pacer is developed. Then the best running technique is introduced and an algorithm to deploy the technique for the autonomous pacer is designed.

The location difference of a runner and the proposed location by the autonomous pacer must be visualised. The system will be tested by first measuring if the autonomous pacer completes a given route in a proposed time (assuming it's a realistic time). Secondly, by measuring if the autonomous pacer realistically adjusts the paces accordingly throughout the run with regard to elevation changes in accordance to the recommendation of the best running technique.

Route or course, stick on one...

## **Afrikaans**

Why???

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# Nomenclature

## Variables and functions

$P$	Runner's power (W)
$P_s$	Specific runner's power ( $\text{W kg}^{-1}$ )
$P_r$	Running resistance (W)
$P_a$	Air resistance (W)
$P_c$	Climbing resistance (W)
$m$	Runner's mass (kg)
$d_n$	Distance between subsequent coordinates (m)
$v$	Runner's speed ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )
$C_r$	ECOR ( $\text{kJ kg}^{-1} \text{km}^{-1}$ )
$\rho_{air}$	Air density ( $\text{kg m}^{-3}$ )
$A_r c_d$	Air resistance factor ( $\text{m}^2$ )
$v_w$	Wind speed ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )
$c_d$	Drag on the runner
$A_r$	Runner frontal area ( $\text{m}^2$ )
$i$	Gradient of ascent or descent (%)
$g$	Gravitational acceleration ( $\text{kg m}^{-2}$ )
$R$	Mean radius of the earth (m/km)
$\delta$	Angular distance (radian)
$\phi$	Latitude
$\psi$	Longitude
$P_s$	Specific Power ( $\text{W kg}^{-1}$ )

## **Acronyms and abbreviations**

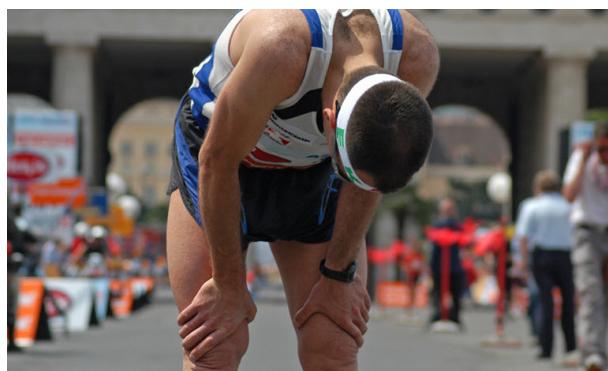
APP	Application (CALL ALL OF THE INSTANCES APPLICATION)
ECOR	Energy Cost Of Running
GPS	Global Positioning System
4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution
AR	Augmented Reality
VRP	Virtual Running Pacer

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1. Background

In the past decade, the running community has seen a few leaps of improvement in the gear usage and studies conducted to aid runners in their quests for being their best selves. There has been an emergence of the running super shoes and data-based running technologies. Track running has been improved by the introduction of wave light technology [1] but no solution on par with wavelength technology is used in road or cross country running. The changes in a runner's immediate surroundings for non-track running provides a challenge that most current pacing technologies do not solve. Within the running community, terms like "bonking" or "hitting the wall" are all too familiar. They are an expression of when a runner surpasses their lactic acid threshold level and effectively runs out of energy as shown in Figure 1.1. This often happens when a runner plans to run at their threshold pace throughout their run and encounters a steep or lengthy hill. The effort required to keep the same pace on a hill is higher than the effort required to keep that same pace on a flat or downhill. Most runners know this but still, runners plan their runs for a constant pace when trying to beat their own personal records on uneven surfaces. Because it takes efforts close to the runner's lactate threshold to beat their record, runners surpass this threshold trying to keep the same pace on a course with a positive gradient. This results in a run not as optimal as intended. This project will focus on developing a virtual running pacesetter, VRP, to enable runner of all levels to run more optimally paced runs, specifically during road and cross country training and racing.



**Figure 1.1:** Hitting the wall

## **1.2. Socio-economic Implications**

With the adoption of 4IR technologies, it is crucial that a sustainability assessment is performed before any technology is built. This section will go over the economic and social implications of adopting technologies such as the VRP which this project aims to develop. The VRP of this project can be classified as automation. It automates and significantly improving a task which has been performed by other human beings, mostly at elite running levels. Most major running events have human pacers. In elite races, these human pacers are enabled to make a living without necessarily having to worry about being amongst the very best athletes who collect prize money. Running is nothing if not a community sport and runners enjoy the human interaction that occurs with human pacers even during amateur events. A shift in mindset and breaking of the status quo is necessary for the success of technologies such as the VRP. The potential benefits of the VRP are used to justification for it's continued development. The benefits are:

- Promoting the use of technology to improve lives.
- Positive use of technology to improve athletic performances.
- Raises the competitiveness within the sport, improving the sport's reach.
- Encouraging unity and collaboration between competitors. Pacers and spectators act as a source of encouragement. Without the designated pacers, all runners must be encouraged to encourage each other during competitions. It is harder to run alone than it is with someone else.
- Enables new markets and research opportunities around the sport of running, in turn enabling runners to make more money from running. This includes the human pacers, new and older runners.

## **1.3. Problem Statement**

A virtual running pacesetter system must be developed for road and cross-country running. The system must provide a virtual runner that a human runner can follow to complete a run in a desired time. The VRP system must plan the running pace for a given running route. The goal is to provide a VRP that a human runner can follow to complete a run in a desired time with the least amount of effort deviation throughout the run, allowing for maximised performance.

## **1.4. Objectives**

Overall, the developed pacer must return the correct location profile enabling a runner to know where they must be located for a given time instance of a run. To ensure that the VRP system works as intended, project objectives are set and must be achieved. The project objectives are as follows:

- Develop a route map recorder that uses a GPS sensor to record the running route (latitude, longitude, and elevation) before the run.
- Develop a route pace planner that plans the pace for the virtual runner over the entire route, taking into account elevation changes, given the route map and the desired finish time.
- Develop a virtual runner for the human runner to follow. The virtual runner must execute in real time during the race on a mobile device, smartphone or smartwatch.
- Testing of the individual components of the system.
- Testing of the integrated system.

## **1.5. Summary**

Evidence. What was achieved. Broad sense.

## **1.6. Scope**

There are a number of factors that contribute to optimal running for a given race or training session. Some factors can be generalised and controlled but some are runner specific and cannot be controlled. The factors range from pacing to runner bio-mechanics and genetics. This project will focus specifically on the pacing with respect to changes in elevation. Pacing with respect to weather and traction from the running surface is considered but not heavily focused on. The focus is also on road and cross country running, which are typically 11 minutes (4 km for elite athletes) to 4 hours for average marathon runners.

## **1.7. Report Layout(Road-map)**

**Chapter 1:** The project background, problem statement, objectives, summary and scope.

**Chapter 2:** Highlights of different technologies related to this project and discussion important information relating to the solution of the project problem.

**Chapter 3:** A system overview including hardware and software considerations.

**Chapter 4:** Detailed design including sourcing of test data and explanations of the algorithm used.

**Chapter 5:** A discussion and illustration of how the algorithm can be used practically.

**Chapter 6:** Experiments and results including a brief description of the design and setup of the experiments, the actual experiments, experiment results and a discussion of the results.

**Chapter 7:** The overall system summary, project shortcomings and recommendation for future work.

**Appendices:** The appendices include the project schedule, ECSA outcomes compliance, encountered problems and solutions, general notes, important results (will be changed to code dump).

# **Chapter 2**

## **Literature Review**

This chapter presents a literature review of background information, related work, and existing systems that are relevant to the development of a virtual pacesetter.

The background information includes an overview of the different pacing strategies that are employed by runners, and the role of human pacesetters and their pacesetting techniques. The optimal running technique, which is based on the running model and the cori cycle, is also discussed. Finally, an overview of existing robotic and virtual pacesetter systems is provided.

### **2.1. Background Information**

This section discusses important information required to understand the solution, its foundation, effectiveness and limitations.

#### **2.1.1. Runner's Pacing Strategies**

The article titled “How to pace your run” on the Expert Advice’s website, [2], explains that runners employ a host of different running strategies. It suggests that runners should keep the same steady pace for road runs and vary their pace on trail runs even walking on some climbs instead of running. Its also suggests that it could be beneficial to start slower and incrementally speed up through the run.

#### **2.1.2. Human Pacesetters and Pacesetting Techniques**

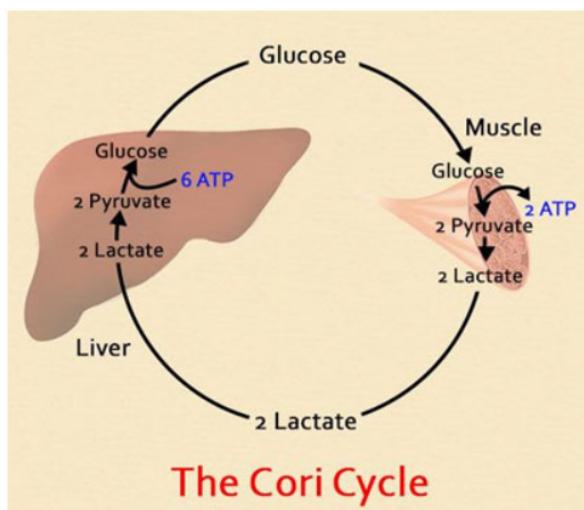
A human pacesetter is a runner that is designated to run at a specific pace to encourage athletes to not run sections of the race too quickly or too slowly. Human pacesetters for track races aim to run at the same pace for the distance they are designated to run. This distance varies from pacesetter to pacesetter. It is based on the pacesetter’s experience and fitness. For the marathon, understanding that not all parts of a marathon are the same in terms of effort is an important part of a human pacesetter’s job. They are able to guide runners more conservatively in the beginning of the race in order to ensure they

have more energy and strength for later in the race when they need it. Good pacers will also guide their runners to run a slower pace up hills and then quicken their pace to gain that time back on any downhill stretches. One big mistake that new runners make is that they start out too fast. According to the article “The Marathon Pacer – Should you run with one?” [3], good pacesetters help runners hold back in the beginning of a race and then pick up the pace later.

### 2.1.3. Hitting The Wall

“Hitting the wall” or “bonking” is a condition of sudden fatigue and loss of energy which is caused by the depletion of glycogen stores in the liver and muscles. The condition can usually be avoided by ensuring that glycogen levels are high when the exercise begins, maintaining glucose levels during exercise by eating or drinking carbohydrate-rich substances, or by reducing exercise intensity.

The body breaks down glucose to produce energy and lactate as a byproduct. As lactate is being produced, hydrogen ions are formed and lower the pH of the blood and thus making the muscles acidic. Through a process called the Cori Cycle [4], lactate is converted back to glucose - the source of energy production - removing the hydrogen ions. The cori cycle is illustrated on Figure 2.1. “Hitting the wall” occurs when the build up of hydrogen



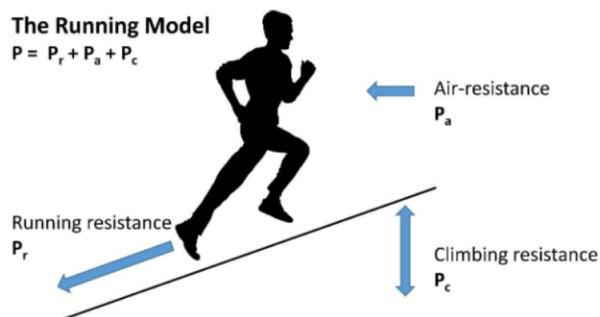
**Figure 2.1:** The Cori Cycle

ions, or proportionally lactic acid, occurs faster than the body can convert lactate back to glucose and clear up the hydrogen ions. Unfortunately, even running at a steady pace on a flat course will eventually lead to an excessive lactic acid build up as no runner possesses infinite amounts of glucose reserves. For this reason, it is widely suggested [5] that runners take in carbohydrate and sugar rich energy gels or drinks during long runs. In so doing, it can be assumed that excess lactic acid above the threshold occurs not because of a lack of

glucose in the body but because of the rate of the lactic acid build-up. This assumption is made to better understand and quantify the effects of environmental change on the runner. An optimal running technique can aid in a runner in properly managing the rate of lactic acid build up in the runner's muscles.

### 2.1.4. The Running Model

Figure 2.2 shows the running model. The running model is a simplification of the power required from a runner to run at a certain speed.



**Figure 2.2:** The running model

The running model is described in the book titled *The Secret Of Running* [6]. The book quantifies the required running effort as the runner's output power,  $P$ . The runner's power is the sum of the power of the running resistance  $P_r$ , the air resistance  $P_a$  and the climbing resistance  $P_c$ .  $P$  must be greater than zero for there to be running motion as will be shown.

The output power is proportional to the Energy Cost Of Running, ECOR. The energy cost of running is the energy cost per unit distance normalized to body mass. The unit of ECOR is Joule per kilogram per km. The energy cost of running is a runner-specific variable and is affected by many factors, including age, training, stride length, cadence, shoe weight, wind resistance, and air density (CITE, CHANGE DEFINITION). A focus on the power and ECOR is better than a focus on pace for optimal running. According to Stryd, [7], as the power increases, the runner must slow down and as the power decreases, the runner must speed up.

In physics, power is defined as the change in energy per unit time. The unit of power is Watt. In mechanical systems, power is defined as the product of the force acting on an object and the object's velocity. *The Secret Of Running* uses the above-mentioned definitions of power to describe the different powers as:

- The **running resistance** is a product of a runner's mass, their speed and their

ECOR,  $C_r$ .

$$P_r = C_r * m * v \quad (2.1)$$

- The **air resistance** is the product of the aerodynamic force acting on the runner and the runner's speed. The aerodynamic force is a function of the air density  $\rho_{air}$ , the air resistance factor  $c_d A_r$ , and the square of the sum of the runner's speed  $v$  and the wind speed  $v_w$ .

$$P_a = \frac{1}{2} \rho_{air} c_d A_r (v + v_w)^2 v \quad (2.2)$$

- The **climbing resistance** is a product of the gradient,  $i$ , the runner's mass,  $m$ , the gravitational acceleration,  $g$ , and the runner's speed,  $v$ .

$$P_c = imgv \quad (2.3)$$

The gradient,  $i$ , translates the forward speed,  $v$ , into a vertical speed,  $iv$ , and the climbing resistance,  $P_c$ , therefore represents the power used to change the potential energy of the runner due to elevation. It is positive for a positive gradient, when running uphill, and negative for a negative gradient, when running downhill.

The runner's power is,

$$P = cmv + \frac{1}{2} \rho_{air} c_d A_r (v + v_w)^2 v + imgv \quad (2.4)$$

When the a runner is in motion,  $P$  must be greater than zero since every human being has mass and always expends energy when running, and their speed will not be zero when running. For a positive gradient,  $P$  increased and for a negative gradient, it is decreased.

### 2.1.5. The Optimal Running Technique

In the past, an emphasis was placed on even splits - running at the same pace - for road and cross country running. This is shown in the conclusion of the article, "Describing and Understanding Pacing Strategies during Athletic Competition" [8]. The article suggests that varying pace may be optimal under varying external conditions associated with field race conditions. An interesting admission in that article expresses doubt that the descriptive findings represent optimal scenarios and that further research is required. According to Stryd [7], maintaining a constant power is the most optimal running technique to ensure runners run perfectly paced runs.

## **2.2. Robotic and Virtual Pacesetters**

### **2.2.1. PUMA beatbot and other line following pacerbots**

In 2016, Puma launched the Puma beatbot [9]. It is a line-following pacing robot capable of guiding a runner along a track at constant pace depending on the time they want to beat. This type of technology pioneered automated running pacesetting and since then several replicas have been made. Line-following robots are usually connected to a smart phone which is used to input the desired completion time and distance to be travelled. The robot calculates the constant average running pace. The robot requires to be placed on a line, usually along a running track. It uses cameras, ultrasonic sensors, actuators and motors to follow the line it is placed on while maintaining the calculated pace for the specified distance. The Puma beatbot did this well. However, the biggest flaw of such a design is that the technology cannot be used where there is no line to follow. Another concern is the sophistication and cost of the hardware used to build such robots. The robot also does not provide the most optimal running for users with changes in the runner's surroundings. The technology is not robust. (INSPIRES IDEA AND NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT)

### **2.2.2. Ghost pacer**

The Ghost pacer [10] is a pacing tool aimed at allowing runners to have a target to follow when aiming for a certain running time. It uses AR headsets to place a augmented robot running at the pace the runner desires besides the runner. Like the line-following pacing robots discussed in the previous section, the Ghost pacer is not robust and is also made from sophisticated and costly hardware. This significantly reduces its accessibility. (INSPIRES NEED FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT)

### **2.2.3. Zombies, Run**

Zombies, Run [11] is an interactive fitness application that engages runners into a post apocalyptic story and prompts them to walk jog or run. It prompts runners to change their speed depending on whether or not they are chased by zombies. It proves the possibility of pace control for runners and illustrates the extent - how fun and interactive - pace controlling can be made. It contains a pace controlling element, which is what the autonomous pacer aims to do. However, the objectives of the pace control in Zombies, Run are significantly different from an automated pacesetter for serious running. Zombies, Run is aimed at making running fun while automated pacesetters are aimed at optimising running input vs output. (INSPIRES LIGHT/COLOUR INDICATORS)

#### **2.2.4. Stryd**

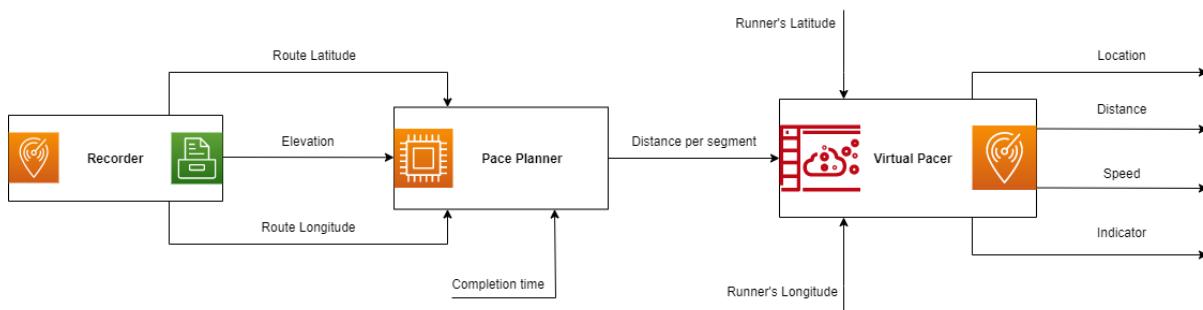
Stryd [7] is a footpod that analyzes the movement of a runner's foot and estimates their power output. It uses motion-capture sensors and wind capturing technology to understand how hard a runner is running. How hard a runner is running is measured as the power output of the runner. Stryd's usage of a power based matrix and not a pace based one to optimise running more accurately represents the objectives of this project. However, Stryd has the disadvantage of requiring body mass calibration thus is runner specific. The autonomous pacer will act as a ready to use tool and generalise the effect of changing environments for any runner anywhere in the world. (INSPIRES ECOR over PACE)

### **2.3. Conclusion From The Literature**

# Chapter 3

## System Overview

This chapter introduces and explains the functions of the system's components and how each component interacts with other components. Figure 3.1 shows the system and its components.



**Figure 3.1:** System diagram

The recorder records route data and stores it for preprocessing. The data stored route data' resolution is increased and made more consistent then is passed to the pace planner. The pace planner uses the processed route data and desired completion time from the runner to create different segments of the route and assign different target paces for each segment depending on the altitude change on that segment. The virtual pacer uses the runner's current location to find out the distance they have ran and compare it to the distance the pacer has planned for every time interval. The output of the virtual pacer is location of the pacer, its distance, speed and an indication of how far the runner is from the pacer.

### 3.1. Recorder

#### 3.1.1. Record route

The first project objective is to find a way to source running route data. The recorder function block uses GPS sensors to pre-record the route and store it as latitude, longitude and elevation data points.

### **3.1.2. Clean route data**

As the old adage would say, garbage in, garbage out. The recorded route data is susceptible to GPS accuracy. Instead of depending on the data to be accurately recorded, this data cleaning step is performed to ensure that the pace planner is passed reliable and the expected running route data. This preprocessing step ensures that movement from one GPS coordinate to the next is realistic. Allows for a realistic path to be followed without the need of collecting too many way-points along the route. The recorder passes the newly calculated latitude, longitude and elevation sets.

## **3.2. Pace Planner**

This function block receives the preprocessed route data from the recorder function block and uses it to calculate the total distance of the route and average speed required to finish the route given the completion time. It separates the route into segments of equal distance and recalculates the speeds to be ran on each segment with regards to the changes in elevation on the respective segments. The pace planner then computes the distance to be covered per second and passes that information to the virtual pacer function block.

## **3.3. Virtual Pacer**

A way to visualise the results of the pace planner and compare to a runner's progress is required. The algorithm is designed to help runners visualise how far off they are from the most optimal pace at points in their run. The virtual pacer block acts as a visualisation tool for the results of the pace planner, as a runner would similarly see. It periodically outputs the pacer's location, distance covered, speed and indication of whether the runner is on pace, behind pace or ahead of the planned pace.

# **Chapter 4**

## **Detailed Design**

This chapter explains how the various system functional blocks individually work. It investigates the influence of the hardware and software choices on the project final product, briefly discusses alternative ideas which were considered, justifies the choices and mentions mitigation measures taken to reduce potential pacer failure risks.

### **4.1. Recorder**

#### **4.1.1. Record route**

Having recognised that route data must be collected and stored for processing, a compact GPS module, a micro-controller and a data storage unit such as an SD card were the initial choices to perform the tasks. However, a smartwatch is more naturally suited for the purpose of the project. It has built-in capabilities to collect and store running data. Because of the wide usage of phones for fitness activities, an android device is used to demonstrate the VRP. The android device is used in the project to collect and store running route data and send to the pace planner.

Matlab was chosen as the platform in which the pacer will be developed. The design choice was made because Matlab is geared more towards simulation than other programming platforms. That is what is required for the project, as testing will be required in multiple phases of the project. Instead of collecting route data using existing fitness applications or directly from google maps, Matlab mobile was the chosen option. This is because it has a sensor option which allows users to collect data using sensors of an android device. This includes position data which the VRP requires. Although the existing fitness applications use the onboard GPS module as the sensor function on Matlab mobile, Matlab mobile was the chosen option also because of its simplicity and compatibility with Matlab, the chosen development and simulation platform.

### 4.1.2. Clean data

The data collected by the android device is not perfectly accurate. The virtual pacer will rely on resolution of the data for consistency in the pacing updates. Consistency is improved by increasing the resolution of the recorded course data and eliminating points which indicate a stop during the recording of the data. This eliminates the need for the course data to be recorded at very slow speeds or high sample rate to try and get a high resolution course. This approach reduces the course data file size. This also allows for the recorder to walk or run the route at any pace - changing or not - and still be able to stop and continue while recording. However, there is no control for when the recorder goes back. This is because there is no expectation for a recorder or runner to do this. Running courses rarely make runners do a u-turn as faster runners would clash with the slower oncoming ones. The assumption is that if a u-turn is made, it is part of the running course. The distance of the course and the distance from coordinate to successive coordinate is to be calculated. According to Simon Kettle [12], the distance between two latitude and longitude sets can be calculated using the haversine formula as follows:

The haversine formula shown in equation 4.1 is translated to include latitude,  $\phi$ , and longitude,  $\psi$ , coordinates as shown in equation 4.2.

$$\text{haversine}(\theta) = \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \quad (4.1)$$

$$a = \sin^2\left(\frac{\phi_2 - \phi_1}{2}\right) + \cos\phi_1 * \cos\phi_2 * \sin^2\left(\frac{\psi_2 - \psi_1}{2}\right) \quad (4.2)$$

$$c = 2 * \text{atan2}(\sqrt{a}, \sqrt{1 - a}) \quad (4.3)$$

Knowing the mean radius of the earth,  $R$  is 6 371 km, the distance between the two coordinates can be found as shown in equation 4.4.

$$d_n = R * c \quad (4.4)$$

Using equations 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4, the distance between successive recorded latitude and longitude is found.

The resolution of the course data can be increased by decreasing the distance between subsequent coordinates. The resolution is controlled and is chosen as 1 m to balance simulation time and accuracy. The change in resolution was done by finding the coordinates at the start of the route and incrementing the position by the chosen resolution value with regard to the current bearing. This approach finds the coordinates 1 m away in the direction specified by the current bearing. This is done until the total incremental distance

from starting coordinates is more than the previously calculated distance between the starting coordinates and the subsequent recorded coordinates. The process is repeated, starting from the last set of calculated coordinates to the next set of recorded coordinates with regard to the change in bearing. Subfigure 4.1a shows new equally spaced coordinate sets represented by the red dots. These sets are found from extrapolating between the recorded coordinate sets represented by the black dots. When the bearing changes, a small angle is created as the incremental distance is not calculated from point 2. The small angle approximation,  $\cos x \approx 1$ , is applied to show that the distance travelled by the pacer and the person recording the data is almost the same. The difference is negligible. Angle  $x$  is between point 2 and point 3's red and green lines. Equations from the Movable Type Scripts website [13] were used to find the coordinates at the incremental distance, 1 m. These equations are shown in 4.5 and 4.6 with  $\delta$  being the travelled angular distance and  $\theta$  the bearing, clockwise from true north. Equation 4.5 finds the next latitude point and equation 4.6 finds the next longitude point.

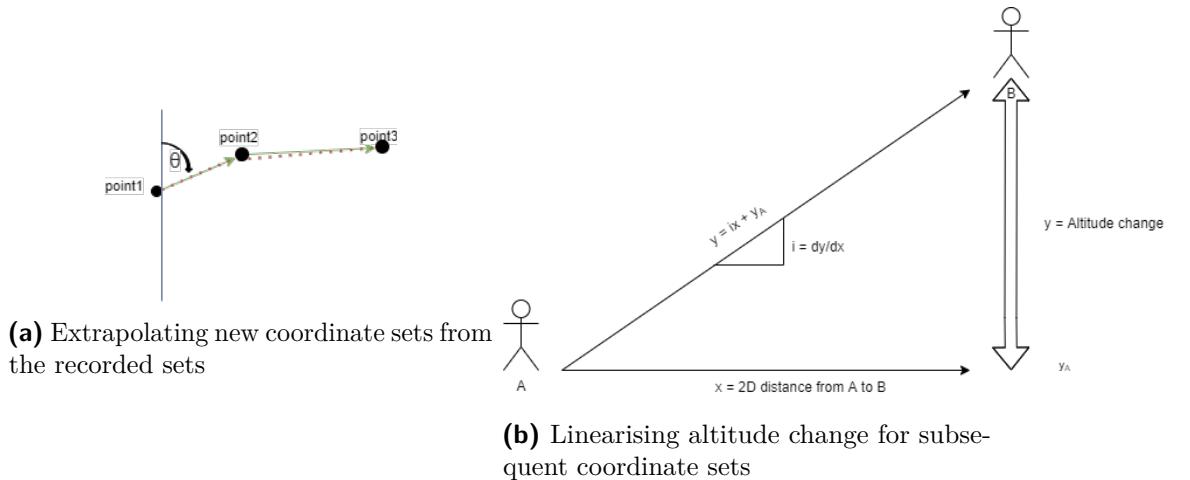
$$\phi_2 = \sin^{-1}(\sin\phi_1 * \cos\delta + \cos\phi_1 * \sin\delta * \cos\theta) \quad (4.5)$$

$$\psi_2 = \psi_1 + \text{atan2}(\sin\theta * \sin\delta * \cos\phi_1, \cos\delta - \sin\phi_1 * \sin\phi_2) \quad (4.6)$$

The resolution of the altitude data was also increased to match the changes in position. This was done by linearising the altitude change as position changed. The gradient,  $i$ , of the linear change becomes the altitude change between the subsequent recorded coordinate sets divided by the distance between the points. This is shown on equations 4.7 and 4.8 and on subfigure 4.1b.

$$i = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y_B - y_A}{x_B - x_A} \quad (4.7)$$

$$y = ix + y_0 \quad (4.8)$$



**Figure 4.1:** Extrapolating new coordinates and their respective approximate altitudes

## 4.2. Pace Planner

### 4.2.1. Distance and speed calculator

Using equations 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 from subsection 4.1.2 the course distance,  $d_{total}$ , is calculated. With  $N$  as the number of coordinates representing the route, the total course distance is,

$$d_{total} = \sum_{n=1}^N d_n \quad (4.9)$$

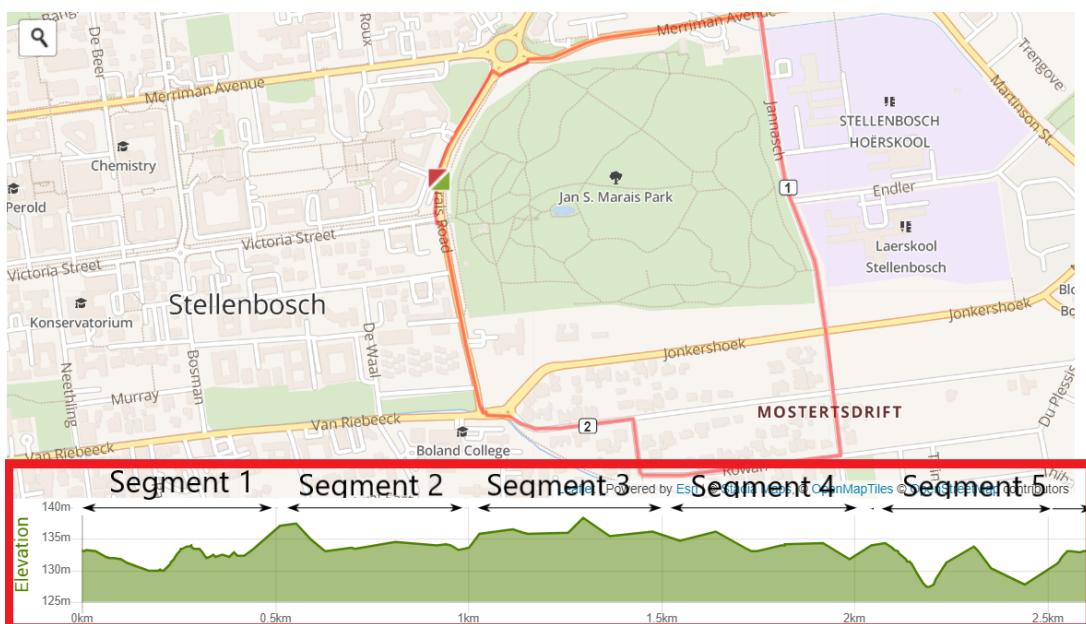
Once the user inputs the desired completion time,  $t_{completion}$ , the required average speed is calculated as follows:

$$v_{average} = \frac{d_{total}}{t_{completion}} \quad (4.10)$$

A realistic desired completion time is taken as 3 minutes 43 seconds for the mile. This is the world record pace for the mile set by Hicham El Guerrouj. This translates to  $7.14 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . Average runner will obviously go much slower than this.

### 4.2.2. Segments and pace per segment

The course is divided into segments of equal distance. The division is done by a value for frequency of pace change,  $fpc$ , and grouping the segments to have the same number of coordinates. Each segment contains  $fpc$  number of coordinates and all segments are of equal distances since all subsequent coordinates are equidistant from each other. An example is shown on Figure 4.2.



**Figure 4.2:** An example of how a running route is segmented

The distance per segment is depended on the chosen  $fpc$ . A  $fpc$  value of 15 coordinates is chosen to ensure that as much altitude change is represented while allowing a runner time to adjust to the new pace on each segment considering that the paces are below  $7 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . This prevents the VRP from providing the runner with rapidly changing paces that are impossible to follow for any realistic desired completion time. For a  $fpc$  value of 15 coordinates, the distance per segment will be smaller than the 500 m shown on Figure 4.2. The last segment is of shorter distance.

If there is a way to keep track of the energy lost during the run, then energy supplements can be taken to replace the lost energy. Individual metabolism factors are not considered as stated in the scope 1.6. A way to do this is by controlling the energy lost during a run. Using the data from the distance and average speed calculator, the altitude changes are considered and the average speed on each segment is adjusted with respect to the elevation gain or loss on that segment. Then the distances to be travelled by the runner at every time interval is recorded and passed to the virtual pacer function blocks along with the pacer's proposed location profile for the run.

As stated in the scope in section 1.6, the effects of weather will not be focused on. By neglecting drag and assuming wind speed to be zero, equation 2.4 simplifies to,

$$P = cmv + imgv \quad (4.11)$$

To eliminate the dependence on a runner's mass, specific power,

$$P_s = cv + igv, \quad (4.12)$$

is used over power. The  $ECOR$  is directly proportional to the specific running resistance,  $P_{sr} = cv$ . And also, the gradient is directly proportional to the specific climbing resistance,  $P_{sc} = igv$ . Consider a runner on a flat course. This means the gradient is zero, therefore,

$$P_s = P_{sr} = cv \quad (4.13)$$

When a gradient is introduced on the course, to keep the  $ECOR$  constant, the speed must change.

$$cv = cv_{new} + igv_{new} \quad (4.14)$$

The new speed is,

$$v_{new} = \frac{v}{1 + \frac{ig}{c}} \quad (4.15)$$

Gravitational acceleration is constant, so if the  $ECOR$  is to be kept constant, the only factor that can affect the change in speed is the change in gradient ascent or descent.

When the gradient on a segment increases, the new speed will be less than the old speed vice versa. The energy and specific power is keep constant resulting is more optimal running than just controlling the power output of the runner. With  $K$  as the number of segments,  $d_k$  as the distance per segment and  $v_k$  as the speed on the current segment, the new average speed for the whole course,  $v_{newaverage}$  is calculated as shown in 4.16.

$$v_{newaverage} = \frac{d_{total}}{\sum_{k=1}^K \frac{d_k}{v_k}} \quad (4.16)$$

The last segment is usually significantly shorter than the others,  $d_k \gg d_K$ . Although  $d_k$ , with  $k \neq K$ , is relatively constant,  $v_k$  varies. Consequently, the time spent on each segment varies. The new speed per segment is scaled such that the completion time is as specified by the user as shown on equation 4.17. This ensures that the overall average speed remains what it is calculated for on a flat course, therefore the finishing time remains what was specified.

$$v_{new} = v_{new} * \frac{v_{average}}{v_{newaverage}} \quad (4.17)$$

### 4.3. Virtual Pacer

Matlab's geoplayer function is chosen as a way to visualise the results of the pace planner. It was chosen because it is capable of displaying real life map data from the use of only latitude and longitude sets. Avoiding the usage of programs or function blocks that required the full set of a gpx file to run a visualising simulation of map data was the main goal. A gpx format type is the typical map data file type. Geoplayer allows for isolation of only the required data for the autonomous pacer algorithm to use. This decreases simulation time and allows for more accuracy and resolution in the results.

The runner's location data is fed to the visualiser. The runner's distance travelled is compared with the pacer's planned distance to travel periodically. A sampling time of one second was chosen as is the typical sampling time for most fitness apps. Figure 4.3 shows an example of the output of the virtual pacer on matlab.



**Figure 4.3:** Virtual pacer example output

Equations 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 are used to find the distance travelled by both the runner and pacer every second. As stated in 4.2.2, the pace on each segment remains constant. The pace of the VRP remains the same until the distance on the current segment has been ran. When the runner's distance travelled subtract the pacer's planned distance is less than pacer's current pace, then the runner is seen as being behind pace. In this case, a red light is shown. To indicate that the runner is within range of the pacer, the absolute value of the runner's distance travelled subtract the pacer's planned distance is smaller or equal to the current pace, the runner is seen as being on pace. In this case, a yellow light is shown. When the runner's distance travelled subtract the pacer's planned distance is more than pacer's current pace, then the runner is seen as being ahead of pace. In this case, a green light is shown. The runner must try to keep themselves within pace. If they are behind pace, they might be exerting less energy but will require too much energy to catch up if they still intend on finishing the run at the desired completion time. If the runner is ahead of pace, they are most likely overexerting themselves and will not be running optimally. When the VRP is complete, the message, "Run must have been complete already" is displayed. Throughout the whole run, the runner is made aware of their and the VRP's position. If they follow the indicators, they will finish the run in the intended optimal running fashion.

The VRP does not have control for runner deviating from the running course and hence cheating. Because only the distance travelled is compared, if a runner deviates significantly from the route, the virtual pacer will show the deviation but the indicators will still run as if the runner is on the running course.

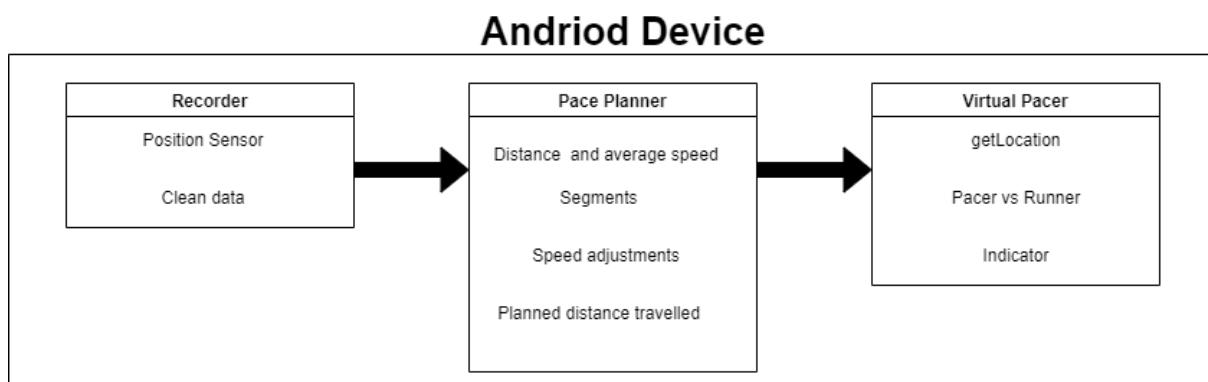
# Chapter 5

## Practical Implementation

This chapter will describe the hardware and software used to implement the VRP.

### 5.1. System Overview

Figure 5.1 below illustrates how the developed pacer could be implemented as software within a host device.



**Figure 5.1:** System overview on a host device

Route data is collected through the runner's android device and saved onto the host application. The VRP uses the route data and sets the location which the runner should be at given time intervals during their run. During the run, the runner's current location is compared with the location set by the VRP and a visual signal to the runner is given to indicate their progress relative to the pacer. This system can be used for any android device, including and not limited to phones and smart watches. This allows the solution to be accessible to many runners.

#### 5.1.1. Recorder

The challenge here is acquiring usable running route data. To demonstrate usability of the VRP, route data is acquired through Matlab mobile and its sensor options. Potential host applications for the VRP's algorithm are popular fitness applications such as Strava. For this reason, an assumption that the host application is capable of collecting the data

required by the algorithm is made. This subsection describes the steps taken to collect route data through Matlab mobile and import it to Matlab as the input to the VRP's algorithm. It also describes how the theory to clean the recorded data is implemented in software.

### **Step 1**

Firstly, Matlab mobile is downloaded from google play store onto the host device. The application is shown in subfigure 5.2a.

### **Step 2**

Once Matlab mobile is downloaded and installed onto the host device, a mobiledev object [14] is created to read sensor data from the host device. This is done on the command prompt of Matlab mobile as shown in subfigure 5.2b. If data is to be streamed to Matlab, the "logging" variable of the created mobiledev object must be set to 1.

### **Step 3**

Once step 2 is completed, the sensors of the host device can be accessed as shown in subfigure 5.2c.

### **Step 4**

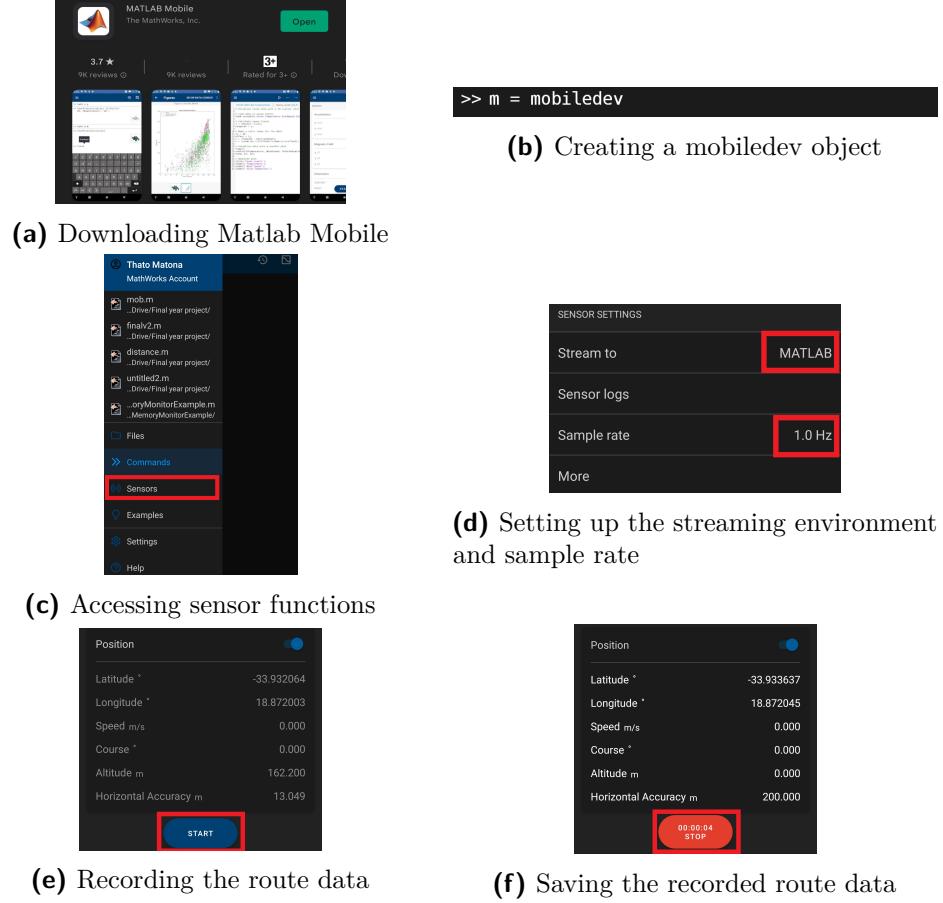
For this application, the sensor is set to stream the recorded data to the same Matlab workspace Matlab mobile was working on at 1 Hz as shown in subfigure 5.2d. The sensors can also be set to log and save the recorded data onto the host device and the data can be manually imported onto the Matlab workspace.

### **Step 5**

When the setup is complete, the person collecting the data must go to the starting point of the intended running course and transverse the whole course. Position data shown in subfigure 5.2e is recorded every second as specified by the sample rate in step 4.

### **Step 6**

When the finish point of the course is reached, streaming must be stopped as shown in subfigure 5.2f, and the data saved onto Matlab.



**Figure 5.2:** Illustration of the steps

Once the above steps are completed, the recorded data can be preprocessed. Using equations 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.9, the distance between successive recorded coordinate points and the total course distance is found. This is shown in figure E.1. Figure E.2 shows how the route data is made more consistent. The set resolution is shown to be 1 m. The resulting distances between subsequent coordinate sets is shown in Figure E.4.

### 5.1.2. Pace Planner, YOU ARE HERE

The theory in section 4.2 is applied to create an algorithm that plans the paces for the VRP. The paces are translated to distance travelled. Figure 5.3 shows the functions of the pace planner.

```
[df, distance_per_segment] = distanceIncr3(oldlat,oldlong,size,fpc);
avgspeed = df(size)/x;
speed_per_segment = segmentTimes(avgspeed, alt, fpc, distance_per_segment,df(size));
dist = diste2(x,speed_per_segment,distance_per_segment,df,size);
```

**Figure 5.3:** Pace planner functions

The total course distance and distance per segment is calculated. This is shown in Figure E.5. Then the average speed is computed. Figure E.6 shows how the route is segmented and the gradient on each segment is found. Then also how the new speed on each segment

is calculated. Once the distance and speed per segment is calculated, the distance per second is computed. This allows the pacer to know how much distance should be covered every second during the run. The distance per second varies depending on the segment. This process is shown on Figure E.8.

### 5.1.3. Virtual Pacer

The pacer is tested using a standard android device. The device used is the Xiaomi Redmi Note 8. The implementation allows for most standard android devices including smartwatches to be used.

It is important to note that the Robot.txt file shown in figure 5.5 would be produced by the host application. Figure 5.4 shows how the VRP output is produced. For the purpose of this project, the VRP output - Robot.txt - is imported from Matlab into the host device's memory as shown in Figure 5.5.

```

14 |     fileId = fopen('Robot.txt','w');
15 |     fprintf(fileId,'%3.7f,%3.7f\n',[transpose(results(:,1)) ; transpose(results(:,2))]);
16 |
17 |     fclose(fileId);
18 |

```

Command Window

```

-33.9323600,18.8727200
-33.9323200,18.8727400
-33.9322900,18.8727500
-33.9322500,18.8727700
-33.9322500,18.8727700
-33.9322200,18.8727800
-33.9321800,18.8728100
-33.9321500,18.8728300
-33.9321200,18.8728500
-33.9321200,18.8728500
-33.9320800,18.8728700
-33.9320500,18.8728900
-33.9320200,18.8729100
-33.9319800,18.8729200
-33.9319800,18.8729200
-33.9319500,18.8729400
-33.9319100,18.8729600
-33.9318800,18.8729800
-33.9318800,18.8729800
-33.9318400,18.8730100
-33.9318400,18.8730100
-33.9318000,18.8730400
-33.9318000,18.8730400
-33.9317600,18.8730500

```

**Figure 5.4:** Pacer algorithm output

The planned location profile is reported as text file.

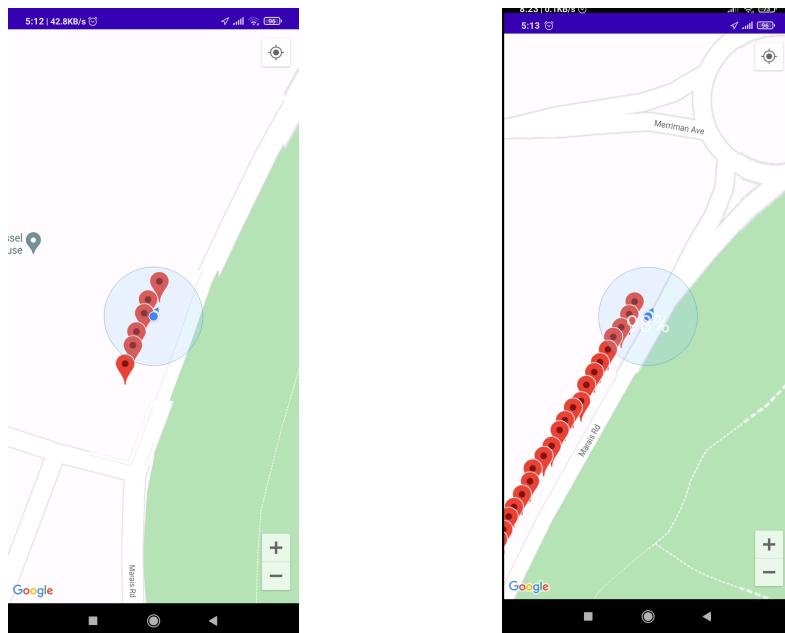
```

1 -33.9320761,18.8719742
2 -33.9320764,18.8719731
3 -33.9320852,18.8719546
4 -33.9320854,18.871954
5 -33.9320797,18.871971
6 -33.9320839,18.8719608
7 -33.9320812,18.8719614
8 -33.9320809,18.8719618
9 -33.9320826,18.8719617
10 -33.9320833,18.8719616
11 -33.9320831,18.8719615
12 -33.9320831,18.8719614
13 -33.9320769,18.8719746
14 -33.9320765,18.8719752
15 -33.9320766,18.8719752
16 -33.9320767,18.8719749
17 -33.9320837,18.871958
18 -33.9320849,18.8719553
19 -33.9320852,18.8719546

```

**Figure 5.5:** Importing the pacer algorithm's output into host device

When the application on the host device is started, the live location of the runner is updated every second and compared to the output of the pacer. The indicator logic is the same as mentioned in section 4.3. When the runner is within range of the pacer, a visual indication that they are on pace is given. Importantly, the runner will be aware of their relative position to the virtual pacer at all times. The virtual pacer compares the distance travelled by the runner and the distance by the VRP every second and gives indicators. The algorithm is shown on Figure E.10. The distance travelled is translated to a location profile which can be visualised on a map in real time on the host application. Figure 5.6 shows a real time execution of the application. The pacer progressive position is shown by the red location markers and the runner's live location is shown by the blue google maps location button.



**Figure 5.6:** Screenshots of a real time execution of the application

## **5.2. Product Transition**

For the purpose of this report, a standalone android application was created to illustrate how the VRP could be implemented for usage. However, the VRP can be integrated with existing fitness applications such as Strava, Zepp Life, NRC, Garmin Connect, Zombies Run and many more. The VRP was not integrated with matlab's android support package to maximize accessibility. As stated on the android studio IDE and on the android police website [15], the matlab android support package compiles for minimum API 30 android devices. Only 24.3% of android devices have an API 30 SDK or above. Runners are already using the popular fitness applications so it is sensible to improve their running experience and not change it by using matlab mobile for the VRP usage. Also, all of the mentioned fitness applications already collect the data required by the VRP to work. This would make the integration process close to seamless. The VRP's matlab code can be rewritten as java or kotlin code of the same functionality. The application can be developed for IOS devices too to increase accessibility. Like Zombie Run, an emphasis on the indicators can be made to engage users and improve interaction with the application. On the results, it will be showed how the visual cues can be made colours for every update. This can be translated to notification LED colours, screen colour pixel changes or even sound effects.

# Chapter 6

## Experiments and Results

This chapter discusses the target metrics, the experiment design procedure to test those target metrics and illustrate the results of those experiments. And finally, it discusses the meaning of the results in relation to the project objectives.

### 6.1. Target Metrics

The pacer's **completion time** is the first metric of interest. The pacer is supposed to enable a runner to finish the given running course at a set time. The completion time of the pacer must match the desired completion time of the runner. The **distance travelled** by the runner and pacer is compared for every time instance and a **response** to the deviation from the pacer will be observed. The pacer is supposed to indicate if the runner is on pace or not. The **speed** with respect to **altitude** change is also measured to observe how the pacer adjusts the proposed speeds for changes altitude. And finally, the **ECOR** is tested to investigate if the pacer truly allows for optimal running.

### 6.2. Experiment Design Procedure

In section 1.4, project objective 4 and 5 state that the pacer must be able to adjust paces with respect to the elevation throughout the run and provide a location profile for the runner respectively. This section will test how effective the pacer is in those two regards and in effect test the effectiveness of the developed pacer. This will be done by comparing the pacer's completion time with the desired completion time. Then checking the speeds at different segments relative to the gradient on those segments. Then also by getting the output location profile of the pacer to see if it is attainable. The other metric that will be tested is the ECOR. An assumption for initial power will be made as the power is not measured by the simulation set up. The above will illustrate the effectiveness of the pacer.

## 6.3. Experiment Results

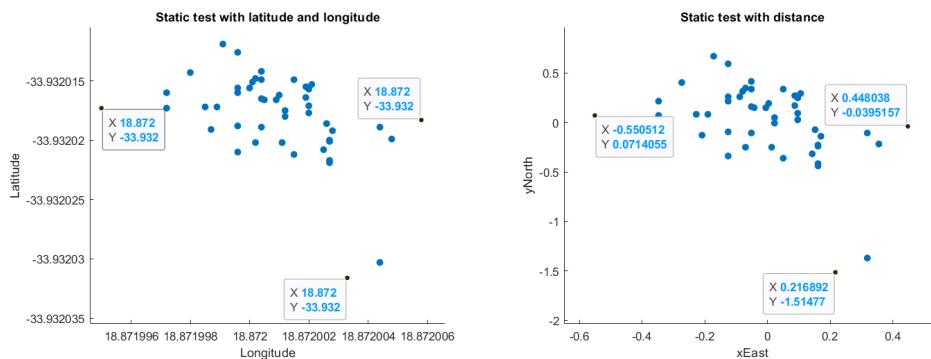
### 6.3.1. Recorder

According to the Stryd website, Stryd's motion capture technology measures paces with more precision, consistency and responsiveness than GPS [7]. This further raises question about the usage of GPS for technology designed to improve running. The GPS accuracy levels of any android device can be altered to balance the accuracy and power usage. The following test were undertaken to test the GPS:

#### Static test

The static test is performed to investigate the noise of the position sensor. The test is done by standing in one position and recording what the GPS measures as the latitude and longitude over time.

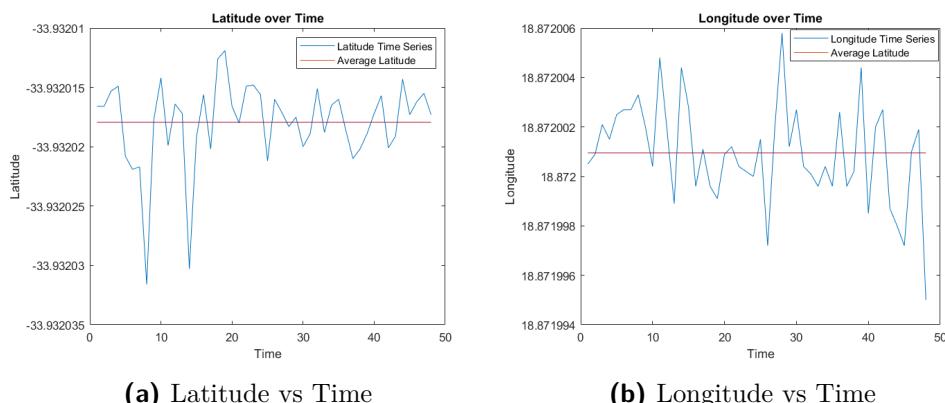
Figure 6.1 shows the positional change in the results of this test.



(a) Static test latitude and longitude plot (b) Static test positional variance in meters

**Figure 6.1:** Static test positional change

Figure 6.2 shows the latitude and longitude change over time.

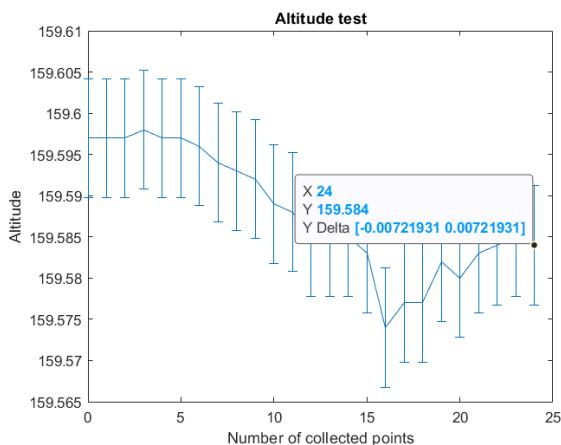


**Figure 6.2:** Static test latitude and longitude change over time

Based on the results on Figure 6.1, the GPS is clearly not accurate when the object is static. The recorded latitude and longitude data is accurate to almost 4 decimal places as can be seen on subfigure 6.1a. One degree of change in latitude or longitude is equivalent to 111 km of distance. This means there is innaccuracy should be below 11.1 m on the recorded latitude and longitude points measured. This is collaborated by the calculated maximum error distance of 1.66 m on subfigure 6.1b. The absolute maximum error should occur when both the measured latitude and longitude points are 11.1 m away from the actual current position. This analysis reveals than even with a 4 decimal place accuracy, the expected accuracy is too high and this requires mitigation.  $11.1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  is not the typical long distance running speed hence runners would struggle to keep up with a pacer that requires them to move at  $11.1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . The mitigation method is discussed in subsection 4.1.2.

### Altitude test

The altitude test is performed to investigate the accuracy of the measured altitude. Similar to the static test, multiple altitude recordings are made over time. The object stays at the same elevation to track the accuracy of the measured altitude level. Figure 6.3 shows the results this test.



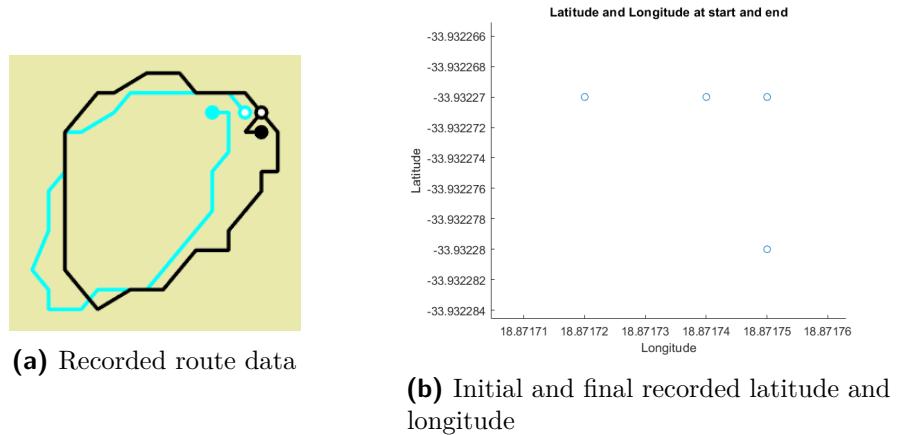
**Figure 6.3:** Altitude accuracy test results

It is clear that the accuracy level of the measured altitude is not a hundred percent. The standard deviation of the measured results is 0.00721931 m. Considering the use of the altitude data on the project, as seen in the previous sections, the deviation in the measured altitude level is small enough to be negligible. With the altitude,  $a$ , average altitude,  $u$ , and the number of samples,  $N$ , the standard deviation was calculated as follows:

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{n=1}^N (a_n - u)^2}{N}} \quad (6.1)$$

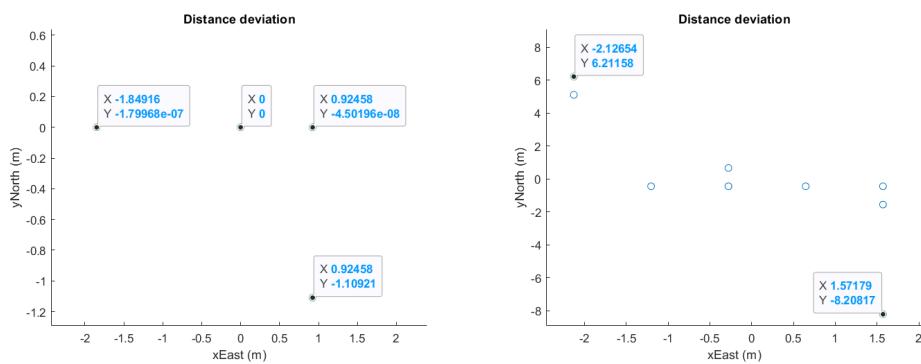
## Repeatability test

The repeatability test is performed to investigate the variance on route data when in motion for repeated recordings of the same route. This is done further understand the expected error margin of the recorded results. The object stays in one position for a few seconds then moves in a circle and back to the initial position. The initial position and final position is recorded. This was repeated twice.



**Figure 6.4:** Repeatability test results

Subfigure 6.4a shows the difference in the recorded data for the same route. The general trend of the route is followed but the accuracy is low. Subfigure 6.4b shows the initial and final recorded latitude and longitude values for the same start and end position of the same route. Again, the accuracy is not good. The maximum change in latitude is  $0.0001^\circ$ . This equates to 11.1 m difference in terms of distance. The latitude and longitude coordinates are converted to meters using matlab's latlon2local function and choosing the first recorded position as the reference. This is done to show the accuracy of the GPS in meters. The deviation is shown in subfigure 6.5a. The test was repeated 3 more times and the results are shown in subfigure 6.5b.

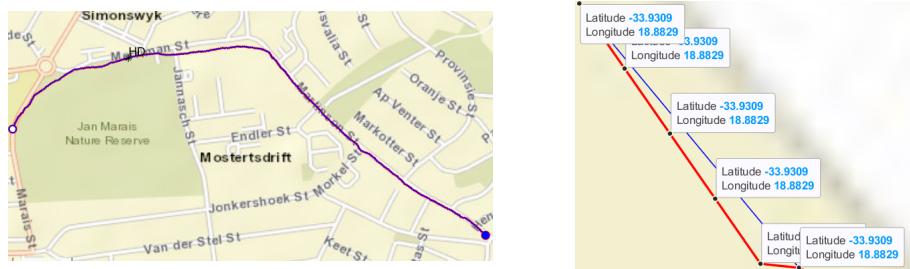


**Figure 6.5:** Repeatability test results in meters

The maximum deviation for the first repeatability test is shown on subfigure 6.5b as 1.1 m in the **x** and 1.85 m in the **y** direction. The maximum deviation for 5 tests is shown on 6.5b as 7.76 m in the **x** and 2.78 m in the **y**.

## Clean data

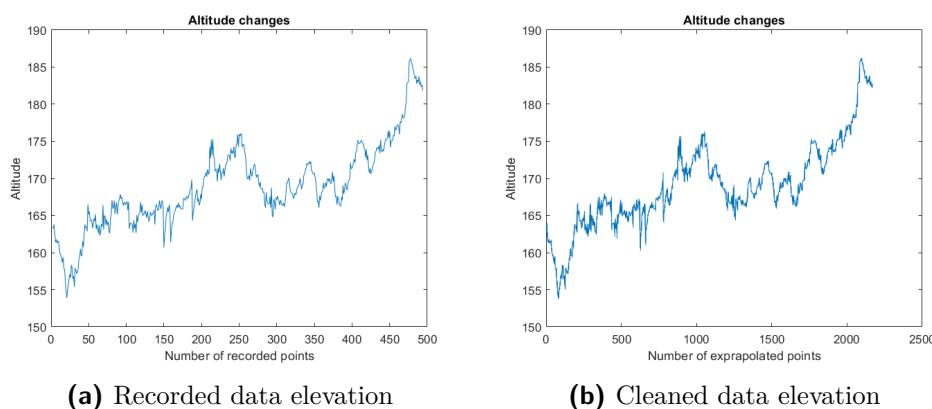
The inherent inaccuracy of GPS prevents the pacer system from providing reliable output data for the user. The effects of these inaccuracies is mitigated. This is done by increasing the resolution of the route as explained subsubsection 4.1.2. A 2 km route was recorded. The same route's resolution was increased. Subfigure 6.6a shows recorded latitude and longitude data in comparison to the cleaned latitude and longitude data for the 2 km route. Subfigure 6.6b shows the zoomed in version of the same results.



**(a)** Data cleaning latitude and longitude results    **(b)** Zoomed in data cleaning latitude and longitude results

**Figure 6.6:** Comparing latitude and longitude of recorded and cleaned data

Consistency is retained on the cleaned results. As shown in 6.6b, there are more data points for the same distance travelled on the cleaned latitude and longitude sets. The overall route is unchanged as shown in subfigure 6.6a. The elevation of the recorded data and the cleaned data is shown in subfigure 6.7a and subfigure 6.7b respectively.



**(a)** Recorded data elevation

**(b)** Cleaned data elevation

**Figure 6.7:** Comparing elevation of recorded and cleaned data

The general trend of the altitude is retained. Subfigure 6.7b shows 2168 altitude points compared to 494 altitude points of subfigure 6.7a. The only difference is that the cleaned

data elevation has more elevation points to corresponds to the increased coordinate points as expected.

### 6.3.2. Pace Planner

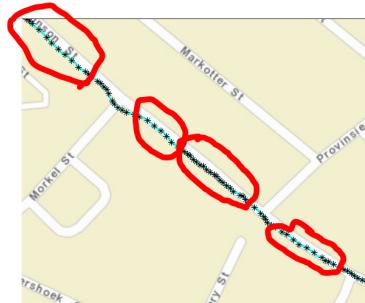
The pace planner

### 6.3.3. Virtual Pacer

Different experiments were set to test the behaviour of the pacer for different conditions. Subfigure 6.8a shows how the course data was loaded onto matlab and how the desired completion time was set to 180 seconds.

```
load('set12el.mat'); % loads matlab sensor data
oldlat = Position.latitude;
oldlong = Position.longitude;
alt = Position.altitude;
course = Position.course;
size = length(oldlat);
fpc = 15; % frequency of pace change.
x = 180; % completion time in x seconds. Modified by user
completionTime =
180
(a) Loading course data and setting the
desired completion time
(b) Completion time
```

The simulation was ran and the completion time was 3 minutes as expected. This is shown in subfigure 6.8b. Figure 6.9 shows the location profile of the robot on a map. The changes in the spacing of subsequent coordinate sets is a reflection of the change in speed at different segments. The higher the gradient - as can be seen on subfigure 6.11b - on a segment, the smaller the change in location per update.



**Figure 6.9:** Robot location profile on map

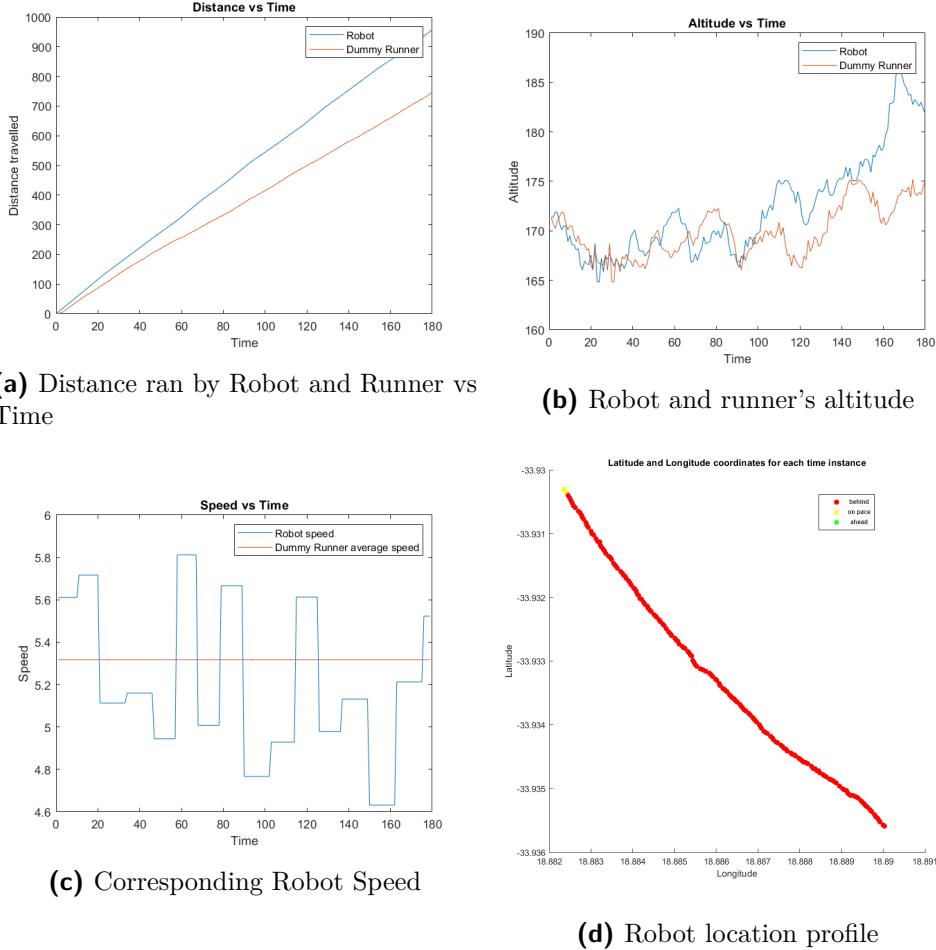
The pacer responds to the runner's deviation from proposed paces by alerting them every second. Figure 6.10 shows what color will be seen in the location profile in relation to the distance between the runner and the pacer.



**Figure 6.10:** Legend

## Experiment 1: Runner slower than pacer on a course with altitude changes

For this experiment, the runner is slower than the pacer and the indications throughout the run are observed.

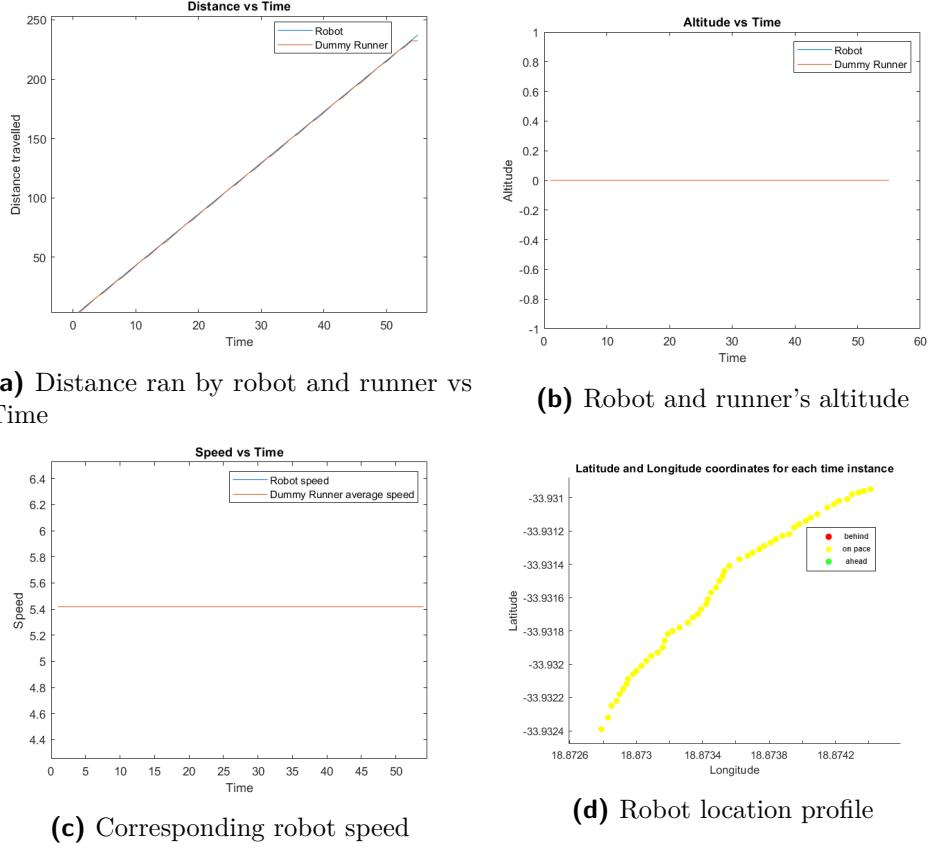


**Figure 6.11:** Effects of altitude changes on the resulting speed and location profiles

It is clear that at the beginning of the run, the pacer was able to detect that the runner was within reasonable distance of the pacer and the pacer indicated that the runner was on pace. When the runner fell back, the pacer indicated that the runner was off pace. Subfigure 6.11c shows that the pacer adjusted the pace for different segments as it was supposed to. The runner still failed to get on track. This shows a limitation of the developed VRP. It is reliant on the user's ability to follow the given cues and fitness of the runner to follow the recommended pace. There is no extra support for the runner if they deviate too much from the paces.

## Experiment 2: Runner correctly following pacer on flat course

A different course was loaded to illustrate how the algorithm behaves on a flat course. The results are shown on figure 6.12. The desired completion time for this course was set to be 55 seconds.

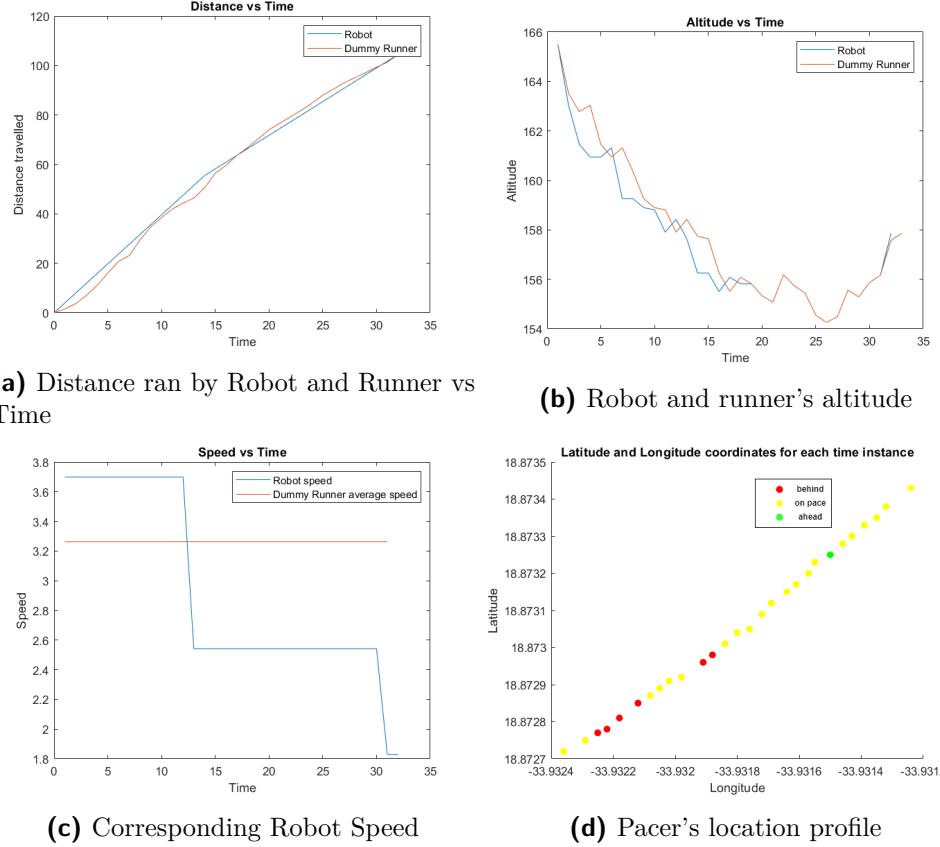


**Figure 6.12:** Altitude and speed results

For a flat running course, the robot's speed remains constant throughout as expected. The runner followed the pacer closely and that is reflected by the negligible difference in distance covered over time by the runner and pacer shown in subfigure 6.12a. The pacer also indicated that the runner is on pace throughout the run as expected. This is shown in the location profile of the pacer on subfigure 6.12d.

### Experiment 3: Runner following pacer on a course with altitude changes

A desired completion time of 32 seconds was set. Subfigure 6.13a compares the distance of the runner vs the pacer for the run. It also shows that the completion time of 32 seconds. Comparison of the runner and pacer's altitude is shown in 6.13b. The average speed of the runner and pacer's speed is shown in 6.13c. Subfigure 6.13d shows the pacer's location profile.



**Figure 6.13:** Runner and pacer comparison

The segments are indicated by the changes in speed of the pacer as a constant speed is maintained per segment. Subfigure 6.13a shows that the distance of the runner and the pacer was similar throughout the run. This is also collaborated by the number of indications that the the runner is on pace given on subfigure 6.13d.

(TALK LOST TIME WHEN DOING COMPARISON AND GOOGLE UPDATE LATENCY. REFERENCE MATLAB. CALIBRATION METHOD)

## 6.4. Discussion

All the results show that the VRP is capable of enabling a runner to finish at a set completion time. If the runner follows the pacer, they will be able to complete their runs most optimally. Speed is changed per segment depending on the gradient on the segment. Whenever the runner deviates from the pacer, the pacer provides an indication to alert the runner that they are falling behind or running too quickly and pulling away.

# **Chapter 7**

## **Conclusion**

### **7.1. Overall System Summary and Conclusion**

This is what we tried to do, overview of report. list objectives, used matric to get objective. So what?? What do we take from this (chapter 1 background and problem statement) People will be able to pace their runs better for optimal pace and run faster with even effort.

### **7.2. Shortcomings**

1. Algorithm relies on correctness of chosen running technique. When pacing technique changes, algorithm needs to change.
2. Controller limitations (<https://www.mathworks.com/help/robotics/ug/pure-pursuit-controller.html>).
3. With regards to integrating the algorithm with other fitness applications, the integration process relies heavily on the willingness on the the companies to host the algorithm on their applications regardless of its potential or benefits.

### **7.3. Recommendation For Future Work**

1. Weather affects pacing. Look at weather predictions and adjust pace accordingly.
2. Running surface adjustments.
3. The developed VRP is reliant on the user's ability to follow the given cues and fitness of the runner to follow the recommended pace. There is no extra support for the runner if they deviate too much from the paces. In the future, the model can be designed in a way that allows for the planned paces to change on upcoming segments to allow for lost time to be made up in the most optimal way possible.
4. Because only the distance travelled is compared, if a runner deviates significantly from the route, the virtual pacer will show the deviation but the indicators will still run as if the runner is on the running course.

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# **Appendix A**

## **Project Planning Schedule**

getGnattChart. In final year project folder.

# **Appendix B**

## **ECSA Outcomes Compliance**

This is another appendix.

### **B.1. Problem solving**

Demonstrated in chapter 1.3 and throughout the project. Elaborate. I took an ill defined problem, understood what I needed to do to solve it, then solved it.

### **B.2. Application of scientific and engineering knowledge**

A scientific/systematic approach - questioning, hypothesis, experimentation, result analysis, conclusion and repetition - will be used to solve the given problem and subproblems encountered. Engineering knowledge and technology such as sensor electronics, robotics, automation, design, existing algorithms, simulations, machine learning, imagine processing etc will be used.

### **B.3. Engineering design**

Design of trajectory planning, tracking, guidance, speed control and collision avoidance systems will be done, applying a number of learnt and new engineering concepts.

### **B.4. Investigation, experiments and data analysis**

Research will be undertaken in the development stage to learn more about current solutions and to determine the best design approaches and optimization alternatives. Experimentation, testing and data analysis will be performed during the design and implementation stages to ensure the running pacer works as intended. Various possible improvements will be considered and implemented after result collection and analysis. Possible future recommendations and integration suggestions will be made depending on the performance of the final design.

## **B.5. Engineering methods, skills and tools**

Throughout the project, skills within and extending out of engineering will be practiced. Time management, planning, communication, design, experimentation, estimation, result interpretation and more. Engineering methods learnt in mathematics, control systems, electronics, computer programming and computer science will be used. Sustainability considerations will be made. Possible use case scenarios and end of life (integration or end of life) will be considered. Simulation tools such as Matlab will be paramount to the completion of the project.

## **B.6. Professional and technical communication**

To be edited at the end. Encapsulate what happened throughout the project.

## **B.7. Individual work**

To be edited at the end. Encapsulate what happened throughout the project.

## **B.8. Independent Learning Ability**

To be edited at the end. Encapsulate what happened throughout the project. What information did I draw/acquire to solve my particular problem? Typically, stuff not learnt in EandE. Demonstrate that you are able to absorb information, learn even from outside of the degree. I needed to know this before solving problem.

# **Appendix C**

## **Problems and solutions**

1. Finding a reliable source of running data. First option was to use a running website to collect running data. Strava was considered but it turns out that to get any data on strava, a query is sent and a token is given. Then the token is used to get the data but the token expires. Google maps also has a similar system for elevations data but uses a code instead. Using a compact external GPS device was considered. Matlab mobile has a sensor option which allows users to collect data using sensors of a phone. This was the chosen option because of its simplicity and compatibility with matlab.
2. Matlab uses API 30.
3. Talk about extrapolation+its+test

### **Notes**

1. Effort should be the same, not pace. Runners try to keep the same pace throughout runs and neglect elevation changes. On higher elevation gain sections of a run, they exert more effort and burn more lactic acid than then should to keep the same pace.
2. "You are behind when you are more than a running speed distance behind". If the running speed is 3m/s then you are only behind if you are more than 3m behind the robot.

# **Appendix D**

## **Lessons Learnt**

1. Biology, the cori cycle.
2. APIs, android app dev.
3. Research, as per chap2.
4. Map data manipulation.

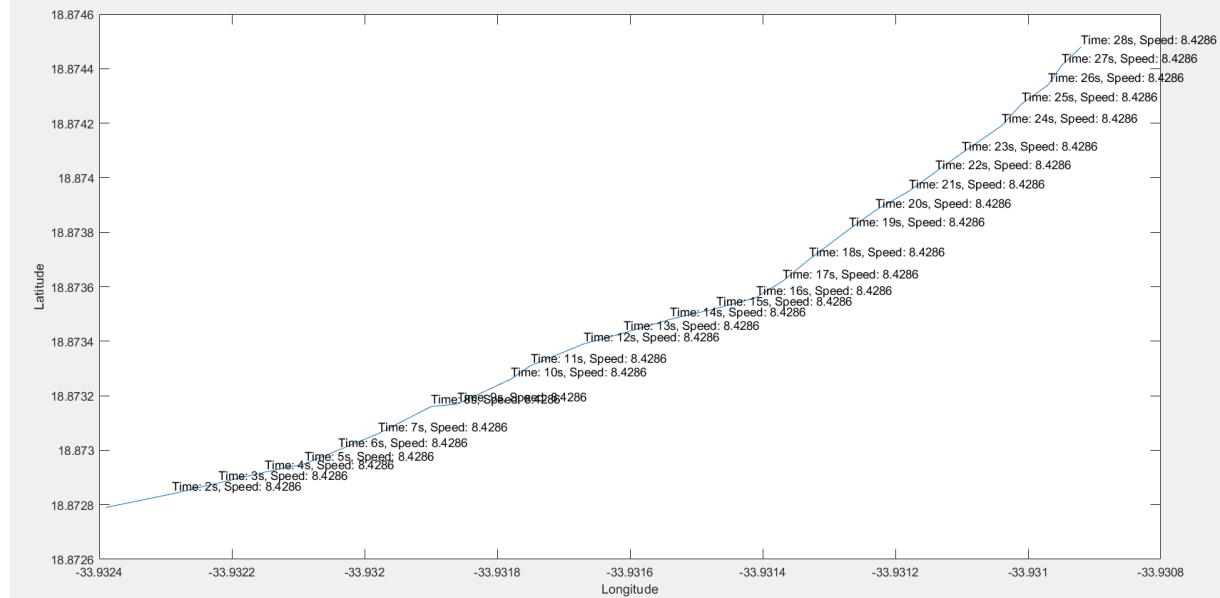
# Appendix E

## Code Used

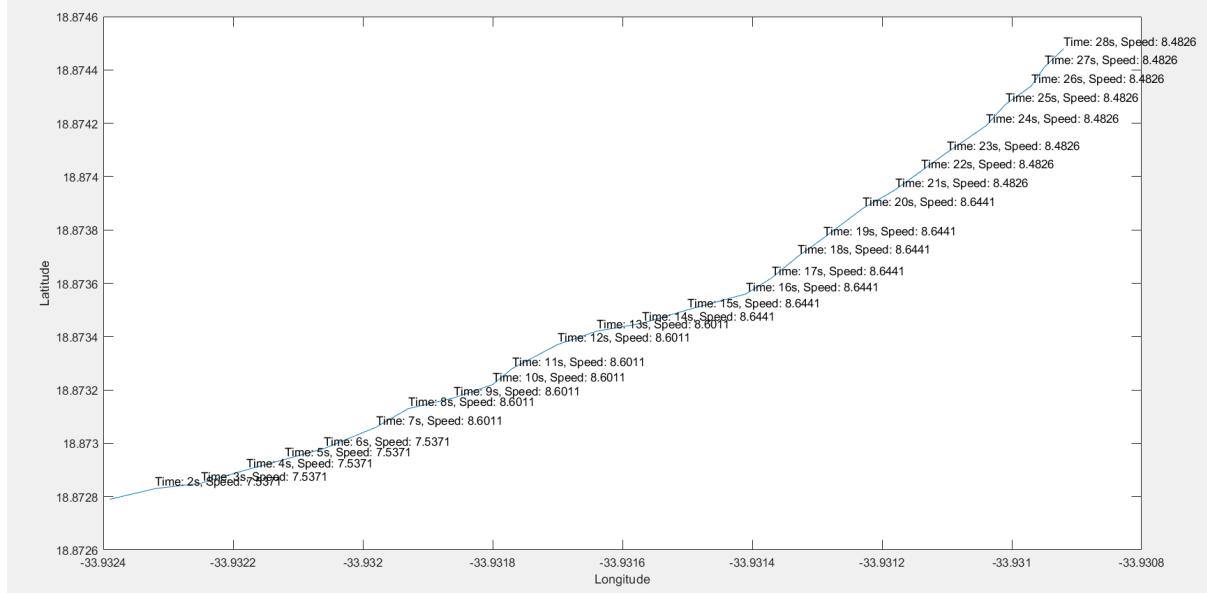
Ghost Pacer YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKEWc6NEIU>

See below. For perfect input data; data that allows for segments to be separated by time and have equal distance, the algorithm to calculate the average distance for each segment behaves as intended as illustrated below.

```
avgspeed = cat(1,avgspeed,(59)/nww(counter)); % assuming equal segment distances  
% shows algorithm works (perfect data input)
```



More significantly, the algorithm automatically accounts for the inevitability of having imperfect data. When the distance is not the same for all segments, the algorithm sets different average running speeds for each segment depending on the distance to be ran on that segment, regardless of the existence of change in elevation. This is illustrated below.

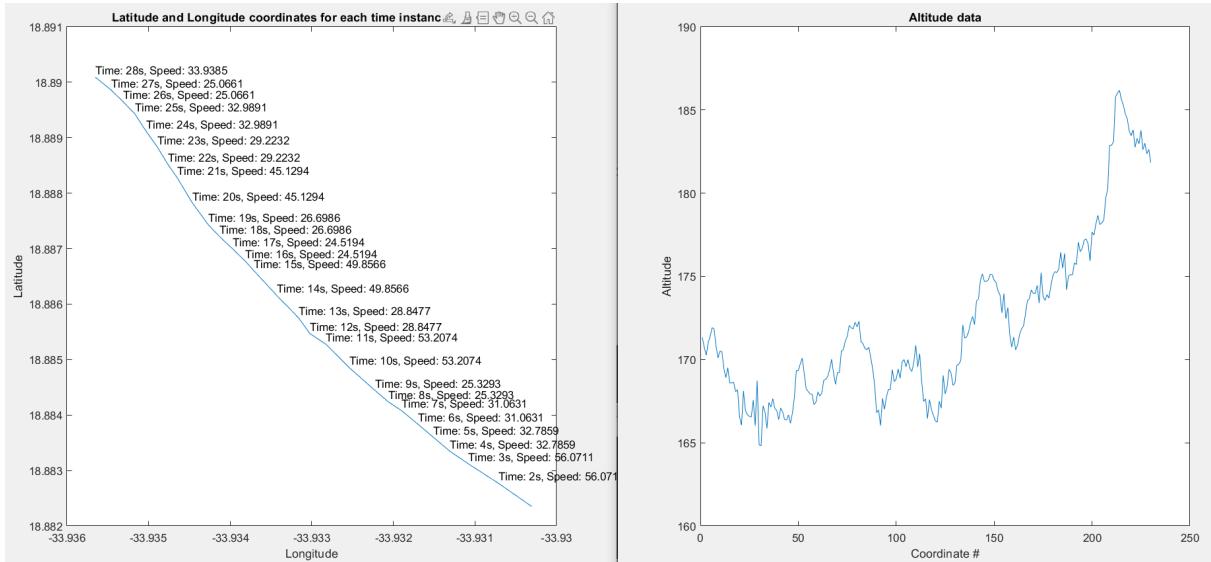


There is a time error introduced by the following line of code,

```
k = k + 1; % final time is almost x; this line takes 0.3 ms to execute
```

It is only executed when the robot model is not supposed to move. With the frequency of pace changes fixed at 15 input points, the time error is observed to be 0.3ms/second as shown below. The effect of this is equivalent to only 4.32s in a 4 hour marathon and a mere 0.36s for a 20 minute 5 km. Thus the introduced time error was considered to be negligible and tolerated. The total time error is shown below to be 30ms/second. This is from the runner's current position being fetched and plotted and other checks. A 43.2s error for a 4 hour marathon is significant. This error can be corrected by subtracting it from the sampling time that is fed to rate control inside the loop.

Below is an illustration of the speed changes on the left with regard to the elevation changes on the right. The results show that the speed is increased as the altitude drops and increased as the altitude rises as expected.



```

function [df, dInc] = checknll(lat,long,size)
    R = 6371000;
    df = zeros(1);
    dInc = [];

    for i=2:1:size
        a11 = (lat(i)-lat(i-1))*pi/180;
        a41 = (long(i)-long(i-1))*pi/180;

        a1 = sin(a11/2)^2;
        a2 = cos(lat(i-1)*pi/180);
        a3 = cos(lat(i)*pi/180);
        a4 = sin(a41/2)^2;

        a = a1 + a2 * a3 * a4;
        c = 2 * atan2(sqrt(a),sqrt(1-a));
        d = R * c ; % in meters

        df = cat(1, df, df(i-1) + d); % in meters
        dInc = cat(1, dInc, d);
    end
end

```

**Figure E.1:** Distance calculation

```

function [df, dInc, NewLatLong, NewAlt] = distanceIncr(lat,long,alt,course,size)
R = 6371000;
df = zeros(1);
dInc = [];
NewLatLong = [lat(1) long(1)];
NewAlt = [alt(1)];
d_move = 1;

for i=2:1:size
    latim1temp = lat(i-1);
    longim1temp = long(i-1);

    a11 = (lat(i)-latim1temp)*pi/180;
    a41 = (long(i)-longim1temp)*pi/180;

    a1 = sin(a11/2)^2;
    a2 = cos(latim1temp*pi/180);
    a3 = cos(lat(i)*pi/180);
    a4 = sin(a41/2)^2;

    a = a1 + a2 * a3 * a4;
    c = 2 * atan2(sqrt(a),sqrt(1-a));
    d = R * c ; % in meters

    df = cat(1, df, df(i-1) + d); % in meters
    dInc = cat(1, dInc, d);

    br = (course(i))*pi/180;
    lat1 = latim1temp*pi/180;
    long1 = longim1temp*pi/180;
    dcheck = 0;
    while(dInc(i-1)-dcheck>d_move)
        lat2 = asin(sin(lat1)*cos(d_move/R) + cos(lat1)*sin(d_move/R)*cos(br));
        long2 = long1 + atan2(sin(br)*sin(d_move/R)*cos(lat1),cos(d_move/R)-sin(lat1)*sin(lat2));
        NewLatLong = cat(1, NewLatLong, [lat2*180/pi long2*180/pi]);
        NewAlt = cat(1, NewAlt, (alt(i)-alt(i-1))/dInc(i-1)*dcheck+alt(i-1));
        y = sin(long2-long1)*cos(lat2);
        x = cos(lat1)*sin(lat2) - sin(lat1)*cos(lat2)*cos(long2-long1);
        br = atan2(y, x);
        long1 = long2;
        lat1 = lat2;
        dcheck = dcheck + d_move;
    end
end
end

```

**Figure E.2:** Increasing the course resolution

```

strava = load('set16el.mat'); % loads matlab sensor data
strava2 = load('set12el.mat');
strava3 = cat(2,strava,strava2);

p1 = strava.Position;
p2 = strava2.Position;
Position = cat(1,p1,p2);
|
lat = Position.latitude;
long = Position.longitude;
alt = Position.altitude;
course = Position.course;
size = length(lat);

[df, dInc, nll, new_alt] = distanceIncr(lat,long,alt,course,size);
[newdf, newdInc] = checknll(nll(:,1),nll(:,2),length(nll(:,1)));

plot(1:length(alt),alt);
xlabel('Number of recorded points');
ylabel('Altitude');
title('Altitude changes');
figure
plot(1:length(new_alt),new_alt);
xlabel('Number of extrapolated points');
ylabel('Altitude');
title('Altitude changes');

player = geoplayer(lat(1),long(1),21);
player.Parent.Name = 'RecorderHD';
player.Basemap = 'streets';
plotRoute(player,nll(:,1),nll(:,2),"Color","red");
plotRoute(player,lat,long,"Color","blue","LineWidth",1);
for i = 1:length(nll(:,1))
    plotPosition(player,nll(i,1),nll(i,2),"TrackID",1,"Marker","*","Label","HD");
end

```

**Figure E.3:** Clean data testing

	1
1	1.0000
2	1.0000
3	1.0000
4	1.0000
5	1.0000
6	0.9687
7	1.0000
8	1.0000
9	1.0000
10	0.9654
11	1.0000
12	1.0000
13	1.0000
14	1.0000
15	0.9746
16	1.0000
17	1.0000
18	1.0000
19	0.9198
20	1.0000
21	1.0000
22	1.0000
23	1.0000
24	1.0484
25	1.0000

**Figure E.4:** Resulting distance between subsequent coordinates

```

function [df, distance_per_segment] = distanceIncr3(lat,long,size,fpc)
R = 6371000;
step = 1;
distance_per_segment = [];
df = zeros(1);
for i=2:1:size
    a11 = (lat(i)-lat(i-1))*pi/180;
    a41 = (long(i)-long(i-1))*pi/180;

    a1 = sin(a11/2)^2;
    a2 = cos(lat(1)*pi/180);
    a3 = cos(lat(size)*pi/180);
    a4 = sin(a41/2)^2;

    a = a1 + a2 * a3 * a4;
    c = 2 * atan2(sqrt(a),sqrt(1-a));
    d = R * c ; % in meters

    df = cat(1, df, df(i-1) + d) ; % in meters

    if mod(i,fpc)==0
        distance_per_segment = cat(1,distance_per_segment,df(i)-df(step));
        step = i; % the end point (index) of recorded elevation
    end
end
if mod(i,fpc)~=0
    distance_per_segment = cat(1,distance_per_segment,df(size)-df(step));
end
end

```

**Figure E.5:** Calculating course distance and distance per segment

```

function newspeed = segmentTimes(avgspeed, alt, fpc, dps, tdt)
size = length(alt);
elevation = [];
step = 1;
for i = fpc:1:size
    if mod(i,fpc)==0
        elevation = cat(1,elevation,alt(i,1)-alt(step,1));
        step = i; % the end point (index) of recorded elevation
    end
end
if mod(i,fpc)~==0
    elevation = cat(1,elevation,alt(size,1)-alt(step,1));
end|
```

newspeed = [];
elevation = sum(abs(elevation),'all'); % total elevation
if elevation==0
 for i=1:length(elevation)
 newspeed(i) = avgspeed;
 end
else
 elevation = elevation/televation; % gets the % elevation contribution of each segment
 elevation = avgspeed/(1+elevation); % assigns speed each segment
 newspeed = tdt/new\_completion\_time(dps, elevation); % new average speed
 ratio = avgspeed/newspeed; % ratio (expansion or compression of average speed)
 newspeed = ratio\*elevation; % adjusted average speed for each segment
end
end

**Figure E.6:** Calculating new speeds for each segment

```

function new_completion_time = new_completion_time(dps, new_avgspeed_on_segment)
new_completion_time = [];
naos = new_avgspeed_on_segment;
for i = 1:length(dps)
    new_completion_time = cat(1,new_completion_time,dps(i)/naos(i));
end
new_completion_time = sum(new_completion_time,'all');
end
```

**Figure E.7:** Consequential new completion time

```

function dist = diste2(x,speed_per_segment,distance_per_segment,df, size)
    dist = zeros(1);
    step = 1;
    distance_to_travel = distance_per_segment(step);
    for i=2:1:x+1
        if dist(i-1) >= distance_to_travel
            step = step + 1;
            distance_per_segment(step);
            distance_to_travel = distance_to_travel + distance_per_segment(step);
        end
        dist = cat(1,dist,dist(i-1)+speed_per_segment(step));
    end
end

```

**Figure E.8:** Translating speed per segment to distance per second

```

st = 1;
player = geoplayer(oldlat(1),oldlong(1),18);
player.Parent.Name = 'Runner vs robot';
player.Basemap = 'streets';
plotRoute(player,oldlat,oldlong,"Color","cyan");
sampleTime = rateControl(st); % 1 second sampling rate to represent real world

```

**Figure E.9:** Visualiser setup

The dummy data in figure E.10 is the runner at the speed while the data was recorded and the robot data is the output of the controlled speed.

```

while(i<=sizemax && play==true)
    if i<size
        plotPosition(player,oldlat(i),oldlong(i),"TrackID",1,"Marker","+","Label","Dummy");
    end

    if i<=x-1
        if dist(i) <= df(k)
            if i<=size
                new_alt = cat(1, new_alt, alt(k));
            end
            i = i + 1;
            results = cat(1,results, [oldlat(k) oldlong(k)]); % coordinates at this time instance
            plotPosition(player,oldlat(k),oldlong(k),"TrackID",i,"Marker","");
            if dist(i) >= distance_to_travel
                distance_to_travel = distance_to_travel + distance_per_segment(step);
                step = step + 1;
            end
            speed{i} = speed_per_segment(step);

            current_speed = speed_per_segment(step)
            distanceRan = dist(i)
            TimeElapsed = sampleTime.TotalElapsedTime
            waitfor(sampleTime); % wait for 1 second
        else
            k = k + 1;
        end
    else
        i = i + 1;
        plotPosition(player,oldlat(size),oldlong(size),"TrackID",i,"Marker","");
        % waitfor(sampleTime); % turn this on
    end

    if i==x
        new_alt = cat(1, new_alt, alt(size));
        results = cat(1,results, [oldlat(size) oldlong(size)]);
        plotPosition(player,oldlat(size),oldlong(size),"TrackID",i,"Marker","");
        "Label","RobotDone");
        speed{i} = speed_per_segment(step);
        current_speed = speed_per_segment(step)
        distanceRan = df(size)
        TimeElapsed = sampleTime.TotalElapsedTime
        completionTime = round(TimeElapsed)
        status = 'Run must have been completed already'
    end
end

```

**Figure E.10:** Visualiser with dummy data

```

load('testset.mat');
lat = Position.latitude;
long = Position.longitude;
alt = Position.altitude;
course = Position.course;
size = length(lat);
scatter(lat ,long , [] , linspace(lat(1),lat(size),size) , "filled");
title('Single point test');
xlabel('Longitude');
ylabel('Latitude');

u = sum(alt,"all")/size;
ud = 0;
sd = ones(size,1);
for i = 1:size
    ud = ud + (alt(i)-u)^2;
end
sd = sd*(sqrt(ud)/sqrt(size));

figure
errorbar(0:size-1,alt,sd)
title('Altitude test');
xlabel('Number of collected points');
ylabel('Altitude');

```

**Figure E.11:** Hardware testing



**(a)** Staying on a marked spot for the static tests

Timestamp	1	2	3
	latitude	longitude	altitude
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5970
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5970
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5970
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5980
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5970
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5970
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5960
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5940
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5930
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5920
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5890
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5880
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5850
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5850
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5850
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5830
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5740
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5770
15-May-2022 08:4...	-33.9323	18.8724	159.5770

**(b)** Hardware test set

```

load('dt3.mat');
lat = Position.latitude;
long = Position.longitude;

player = geoplayer(lat(1),long(1),21);
player.Parent.Name = 'Runner vs robot';
player.Basemap = 'streets';
plotRoute(player,lat,long,"Color","cyan");

figure
scatter(lat(5),long(5));
hold on;
scatter(lat(50),long(50));

load('dt5.mat');
lat = Position.latitude;
long = Position.longitude;
plotRoute(player,lat,long,"Color","black");

scatter(lat(5),long(5));
scatter(lat(50),long(50));

load('dt1.mat');
lat = Position.latitude;
long = Position.longitude;

scatter(lat(5),long(5));
scatter(lat(51),long(51));

load('dt2.mat');
lat = Position.latitude;
long = Position.longitude;

scatter(lat(5),long(5));
scatter(lat(50),long(50));

load('dt4.mat');
lat = Position.latitude;
long = Position.longitude;

scatter(lat(5),long(5));
scatter(lat(45),long(45));

title('Latitude and Longitude at start and end');
xlabel("Longitude");
ylabel("Latitude");
legend('start1', 'end1', 'start2', 'end2');

```

**Figure E.13:** Repeatability test