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GPS AND INERTIAL DATA ACQUISITION, WRANGLING AND FUSION BRIEF STUDY OF AIRBORNE SOFTWARE SYSTEMS CERTIFICATION

University of Seville

Navigation Aids Systems Course

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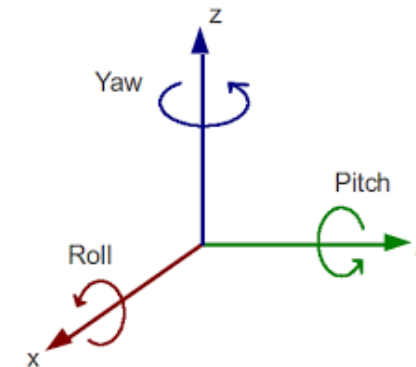
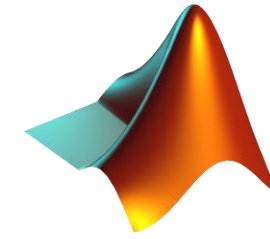
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OBJECTIVES

1. Procurement, handling and integration of both inertial and GPS data from electronic components

2. Study of the considerations in the algorithm certification.

WHY?

It is the starting point of the development of on board algorithms

TOOLS

Phyton
Matlab
Ada programming Language
UAV v2 Development Platform
EM-406A
NMEA protocol

Methodology

GPS Data Acquisition

- EM406 GPS-UAV Development Platform

HARDWARE

EM406 SiRF III GPS
receiver

CPU = Microchip dsPIC30F4011

ICSP header
(VPP, VCC,
GND, PGD,
PGC and N/C)

Basic breakout board for the
USB to serial IC

3 axis GPS-UAV with
plenty of processing power
and features

Spare pins

3 STMicroelectronics LISY300AL **gyros** (one for each axis)
1 three axis MMA7260 **accelerometer**

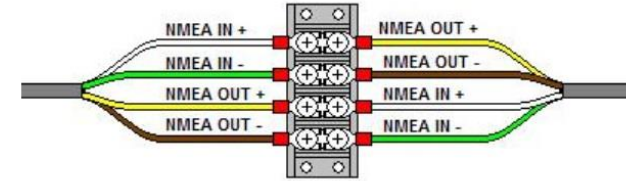
Methodology

GPS Data Acquisition

- NMEA 0183

WHAT IS IT?

Electrical and data specification for communication between marine electronic devices such as gyrocompass, autopilot and GPS receivers



WHAT DOES IT USE?

ASCII= serial communications protocol



defines how **data*** is transmitted in a sentence from one talker to multiple listeners at a given time

*DATA: complete PVT solution (position, velocity, time)

ADVANTAGES

- There are standard sentences for each device category
- There is also the ability to define proprietary sentences for use by the individual company

Methodology

GPS Data Acquisition

- Python

WHY PYTHON AND NOT OTHERS LIKE CUTECON?

1. Test the pySerial library
2. Because it provides an easy method to establish a serial interface connection.
3. Because the output is ready to be parsed also in python

1 Hz frequency
and 4800 as baudrate.

```
import serial
import time

class serialInterface():

    tty = None
    baud = None
    serial = None

    def __init__(self, tty, baud = 4800):
        self.tty = tty
        self.baud = baud
        self.serial = serial.Serial(self.tty, self.baud)

    def read(self):
        in_bytes = self.serial.inWaiting()
        time.sleep(1)
        if in_bytes > 0:
            return self.serial.read(in_bytes)
        else:
            return ""

interface = serialInterface('/dev/ttyUSB1', 4800)

while True:
    print(interface.read())
```


Inertial Data Acquisition

Coordination with other group of students: *Sistema de Navegación Inercial INS*



DESCRIPTION:
calibration and data acquisition
project from an Inertial
Measurement Unit, i.e., the
9DOF Razor IMU

9DOF RAZOR IMU

three sensors (triple-axis gyro, triple-axis accelerometer and triple-axis magnetometer) → to give nine degrees of inertial measurement



Timestamp (ns)	accX (m/s ²)	accY (m/s ²)	accZ (m/s ²)
6.81E+13	-0.0104	0.1904	9.9066
6.81E+13	-0.2194	0.5006	9.8176
6.81E+13	0.0448	0.1305	9.9859

Example of Inertial Data

Data Wrangling

HOW?

Python

WHY?

Possibilities within seem endless.



Allows to create CSV output to easily read data in a spreadsheet

WHAT IS WRANGLING FOR?

FROM RAW DATA FROM GPS → TO DESIRED FORMAT THAT CAN BE INTERPRETED BY MATLAB AND ADA PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE

WHAT HAS BEEN USED?

The **module** `csv` from the Python standard library → output the data to CSV format.



A **function** → transform latitude and longitude strings into relative x and y coordinates*

***UTM library** was imported and used to apply the Universal Transverse Mercator

```
import utm
import csv
import numpy as np

#Define function to convert latitude and longitude to local XYZ
coordinates
def latlon_to_xyz(latitude, longitude):
    #Latitude in format DDDM.MMMM
    #Longitude in format DDDMM.MMMM
    lat_sign = 1 if latitude[1] == "N" else -1
    lon_sign = 1 if longitude[1] == "E" else -1
    lon_deg_min = float(latitude[0][2:3])
    lon_deg_min = float(longitude[0][3:4])
    lat = ((float(latitude[0][1])
    + float(latitude_deg_min[1])/60.0)*lat_sign)
    lon = ((float(lon_deg_min[1])/60.0)*lon_sign)
    + float(lon_deg_min[1])/60.0)*lon_sign)
    return (utm.from_latlon(lat, lon)[0], utm.from_latlon(lat, lon)[1])
```


Sensor Data Fusion. Ada Programming Language

- Features

WHERE IS IT USED?

applications
where safety and security
are of the utmost
importance

It is designed for
developing very large
software systems.

ADVANTAGES

1. Its feature set and programming paradigms allow software developers to develop applications more effectively and efficiently
2. The syntax of Ada minimizes choices of ways to perform basic operations



Readable, reliable,
and maintainable
software.

It is an ideal tool to approach the design with compliance to the primary document by which the certification authorities approve all commercial software-based aerospace system → **DO-178C**

Sensor Data Fusion. Ada Programming Language. Features.

- DO-178C

WHAT IS IT?

Software Considerations in Airborne Systems and Equipment Certification published by RTCA

WHAT DOES IT DO?

The document attributes to every system a software level = Design Assurance Level (**DAL**)



It is determined from the safety assessment process and hazard analysis by examining the effects of a failure condition in the system

Depending on the DAL, the document establishes a number of objectives to be satisfied by the systems.

Certifying that a system complies with this standard is a challenging task but appropriate usage of qualified tools and specialized runtime libraries can significantly simplify the effort. For this purpose, the utilisation of the technologies offered by AdaCore is convenient → it helps to cover not only the core DO-178C document but also the technology supplements

DO-178 requires a high **traceability** = connection (called a trace) between the certification artifacts.

EXAMPLE: a Low Level Requirement (LLR) traces up to a High Level Requirement (HLR) → A traceability analysis is then used to ensure that each requirement is fulfilled by the source code, that each requirement is tested, that each line of source code has a purpose (is connected to a requirement), and so forth.

Traceability ensures the system is complete.

Theoretical Analysis and Problem Formulation.

- KALMAN FILTER

WHAT IS IT?

Algorithm that uses a series of measurements observed over time, containing statistical noise and other inaccuracies



Produces estimates of unknown variables that tend to be more accurate than those based on a single measurement

WHAT DOES IT GET?

The mathematical equations provide an **efficient recursive solution** by the least-squares method → A LINEAR, UNBIASED, AND OPTIMAL ESTIMATOR OF THE STATE OF THE SYSTEM at the moment of time t based on the information available at time $t-1$ and update with the additional information available at time t

HOW?

Prediction and correction

- Prediction: Kalman filter produces estimates of the current state variables, along with their uncertainties.
- Correction: the estimates are updated when the outcome of the next one is observed using a **weighted average** ⇔ more weight being given to estimates with higher certainty

It is **recursive** → can run in real-time, using only the present input measurements and the previously calculated state and its uncertainty matrix



predict the system state in the past, present, and future

Theoretical Analysis and Problem Formulation

- Ada Programming Language

Basic structure of the general Kalman filter implementation in Ada

Ada.Numerics.Real_Arrays package
Generics
Package-oriented implementation
Strongly-typed syntax

Design focused towards DO-178C compliance

```
with Ada.Numerics.Real_Arrays;  
use Ada.Numerics.Real_Arrays;  
generic  
  type Real is digits <>; -- used to define any floating-point type  
  N : Positive; -- N represents the dimension of the state  
  M : positive; -- M represents the number of measurements  
package generalKalmanFilter is  
  type State is Real_vector (1..N);  
  type stateMatrix is Real_Matrix (1..N, 1..M);  
  type Measurements is Real_Matrix (1..N, 1..M);  
  procedure defineStateMatrix (F : in stateMatrix);  
  procedure defineNoise (Q : in stateMatrix);  
  procedure defineMeasurements (h : in Measurements);  
  procedure defineMeasurementsNoise (r : in Real);  
  procedure predictionStep (X : in out State;  
                           P : in out stateMatrix);  
  procedure updateStep (z : in Real;  
                       X : in out State;  
                       P : in out stateMatrix;  
                       R : out Real);  
end generalKalmanFilter;
```

Data Fusion

KEY POINTS

GPS and INS navigation systems are **complimentary**

The frequencies of each device are different → the faster one, the IMU, is used to interpolate the positions and speeds between fifty GPS measurement inputs.

Sensors provide the same type of information about movement, it is necessary to merge both signals in order to enter the filter as a **single source**



Data provided by both sensors have been expressed in the same coordinate system and the same units (rad, m and s)

...ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF KALMAN FILTER

Its has been used a function available in Matlab to apply a Kalman filtering on the data fusion

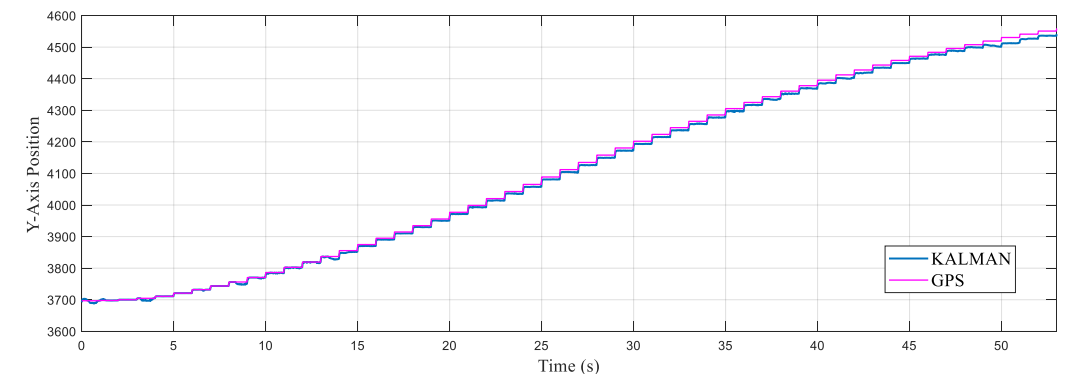
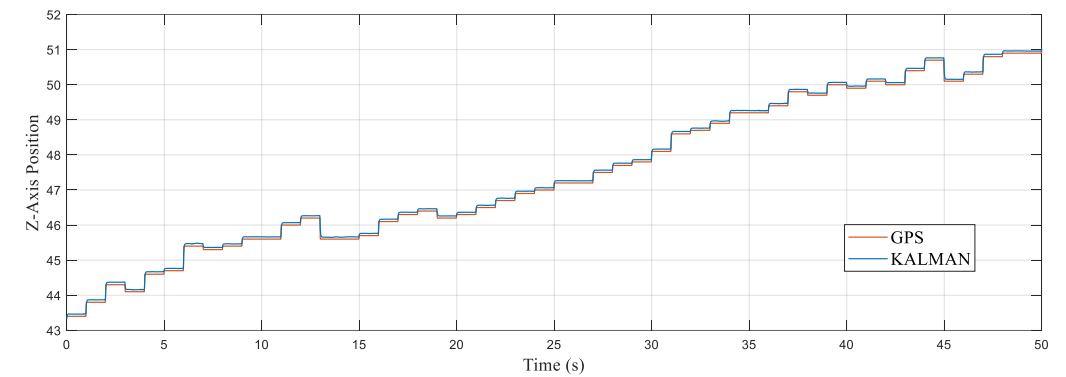
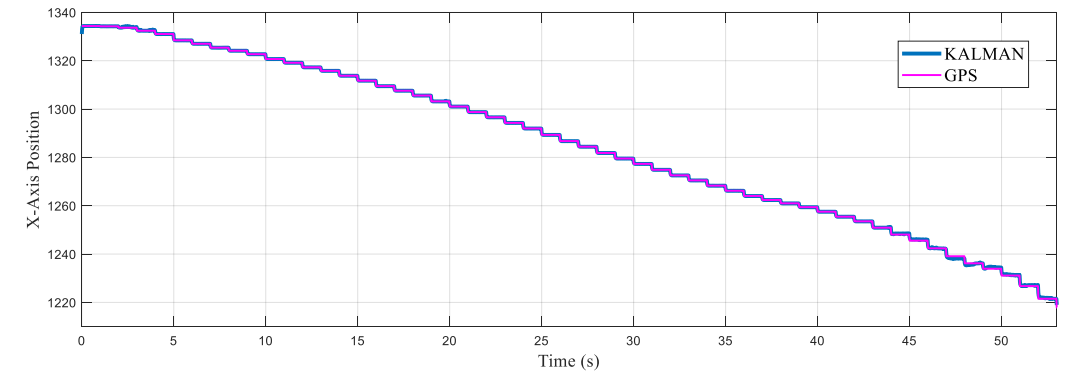
It is **off-line***

OFF-LINE: that it has been done after data collection.

CRUCIAL CONCLUSIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT KALMAN FILTER

Kalman filter is not able to eliminate errors in the calibration of the sensors or in the modeling of the dynamic system that imply large variations on the real results. This is what happened in this case, the measurements taken by the IMU were not entirely reliable, so the measurements with the greatest weight were those of the GPS.

It is important to highlight the idea that a Kalman filter is not capable of deciding whether the measure or the model is correct or wrong. Its only task is to **estimate**, within the available data, an optimal solution free of random noise.



Some of the results obtained

Conclusions

The importance of certification in on board algorithm design has been emphasized throughout the whole project, as it was our main goal.

The airborne software systems certifications requirements have been briefly studied.

The basis for an Ada based certification-oriented approach has been laid out.

Different trade-offs were evaluated and compromises were made in order to arrive at the best possible solutions.

Different technologies have been researched to perform the different stages of our project.

Our knowledge about topics studied in the Navigation Aid Systems Course have been expanded and consolidated.

Futures lines of research

Design of any number of the procedures defined within the basic structure of the Ada implementation.

Development of a Python application to visualize the coordinates obtained from the Filter fusion algorithm.

Study of the considerations needed to analyze the certification process of the algorithm design.

Application of Kalman Filter fusion technique in real time

Improve the calibration and capacity of the devices and the quality of the data collection process to get more reliable the data

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