**Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (LWL) Department of Information and Communications Technology**

**Final Year Project (ITP4913M)**

**Summary Report**

**(2019/2020)**

**Automated Data Collecting System for Environment Using UAVs and Smartphones**

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| --- | --- |
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We declare that this is a group project and that no part of this submission has been copied from any other student’s work or from any other source except where due acknowledgement is made explicitly in the text, nor has any part been written for us by another person.

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Abstract

This project is to develop a Data Collection System. Our system will help the meteorologists to measure the weather. We analysed their requirements to develop our system to providing easy deploy instruments and performing weather analysis.

This project is to develop a client-side system which consists of three parts including an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), a computer application and a mobile application.

As we all know, Smart devices are becoming much popular like Apple iPhone, iPad, Google Android devices...etc. So, we use a mobile device to replace the common UAV Flight Controller. The mobile application aims to easily control the UAV by directly connecting the UAV without another controller.

Regarding the computer application, we develop a system based on Window system. This system was designed to display the detail of the UAV and climatic data. A meteorological research team can use this system to monitor the status of the UAV and study the environment data instantly. Also, these collected data can be outputted by JSON file and the graphics. JSON is the best tool for the sharing data because the data is stored in the arrays. Therefore, the team can be handled the data easily for further study.

In the world, up to now, there is not any standard Personal Drone System for weather analyzing. The meteorological research team usually use simple environment data collected from the tools which are small and single or the environment data that providing from some large organization for study, but these ways is difficult to research a specific area for small organization. This system finally brings simplicity, ease of use to users in meteorological research field.

# Acknowledgement

# List of Tables and Figures

Introduction of Project

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) become more universal and mature in the modern society. The UAV is widely used for different fields including rescue operation, military affairs and physical distribution. For personal use, the UAV is mainly for high-altitude aerial photography. Some safety guideline and the legal is made for flying UAV by Hong Kong government. Because of the mature technology of UAV and social environment, we based on the UAV to develop an Automated Data Collecting System to user for environment data collection.

This project aims to build up a client-side application. The system build-up a communication between UAV and devices which include smartphone and computer. The UAV can transfer the real-time view and collected data to the devices. Also, the UAV can execute the instruction from the devices. Users can collect the climatic data easily from the high altitude through this system.

All collected data should be belonged to a mission which is users created before these data is collected. These data are not sent out from the device. The only aim of all collected data is for users' study. Also, these data are protected in users' device.

This system we expect that the system can suits professional environment analyst and normal user at the same time. we make the system become more user-friendly. Also, the system can meet the requirement of the environment data collection for professional users because the system can collect and display detailed environment data by specific UAV.

In this report, we will introduce the system design which describes how the UAV and devices communication to achieve live stream and data collection functions. Also, we consider the proposed solutions for hardware and software, the system's constraints and related regulation about UAV. In addition, we have to make the project plan to arrange the time to make sure that the system can be completed on time

The Description of Document Structure

This report has 7 major sections to help understanding process of the development of the new UAV System.

The Problems

This part describes the problems we meet during the process.

The Requirements

This part describes the scope of the system and the descriptions of the functions provided by the UAV.

Documentation for Problems Analysis

This part is shown with the UML modeling to describe how the system works.

Critical Evaluation

This part describes what potential difficulties we may face, or what problems

Detailed Project Plan

This section will first show our project schedule and what deliverables will handout. Then, the resources we need for the project.

References

There are some websites that we referred.

# Description of the Project

Background

As we know, nowadays, the environmental issue is increasingly severed. There is more and more exhaust emission because of industry high-speed development. This harm to personal health and the earth. So, people are highly worried about the environmental issue. A new environment data collecting system is expected. Our UAV could help people to collect climatic data accurately.

Problem Description

Since the observatory cannot provide accurate data for every region, people can't get environmental data on a specific area.

First, the current climatic data collection tools normally work in the ground. The climatic analysis team can't collect climatic data from the sky. Many exhausts transmit to high altitude or exist in there. Therefore, the climatic analysis team can't get the most accurate data from the ground through the current data collection tool.

Second, someplace human can't arrive there easily such as disaster area and mountain. The climatic analysis team can't get the most accurate data from there. This will hinder some rescue operations or some researches.

Third, the current climatic data tools may not include data recording function. The analysts must use another tool to record the climatic data manually. After collection, they also need to analyze these data record. This will increase the working process of climatic data analysis.

Problem Environment

The data analysts are lack of electronic technology and information technology to create a new environment data collecting system. They can use the current climatic data tool only. Nowadays, the environmental issue is increasingly severed. A new environment data collecting system can help them to be more convenient and accurate to collect climatic data.

# The Requirements

Scope of the system

This section is the discussion of system proposed to handle the problems encountered based on the design of the system, functionality and feasibility and the system requirements. Different aspects of problems have been concerned in terms of software and hardware layer. The discussed issues are as following:

* Mobile Application
  1. The way of UAV and smartphone to communication
  2. The structure of the mobile application
  3. The function of the mobile application
* Windows Application
  1. The way of UAV and notebook computer to communication
  2. The structure of the Windows application
  3. The function of the Windows application
* UAV
  1. The inspection sensor of the UAV
* System Design
  1. How to make our application user-friendly
* Visualization for climatic data
* Description for the data outputting

Mobile Application

The way of UAV and smartphone to communication

Assume that the mobile application is installed to users' smartphone. The users will see the main page showing "no connection" when they open the mobile application. They should turn on the UAV and connect the smartphone to the Wi-Fi network of the UAVs. When the UAV and the smartphone are connected, the UAV will send the real-time view which is collected by the camera to the smartphone. The main page of the application will display the real-time view from the UAV when the users open the mobile application again. Also, the users can control the UAV by the smartphone including "rise", "decline", "go", "back", "turn" and "translation". These control request will send to the UAVs by the Wi-Fi network at real-time. The UAVs will response these control request.

When the users want to collect the climatic data, they should press a "start" button to open all UAV's sensors. Then, the UAV will send the data to the notebook computer. And the notebook computer will show the real-time climatic data on the real-time view. There will be some charts to display the above data by the time period. At the same time, these data will be recorded.

The structure of the window application

The window application is designed on a layer. There is a menu bar on top. This will guide the user to execute different functions including "New Mission", "Output Result", "Quit", "Connect" and "Disconnect" functions. In addition, a "Start" button for starting data collection is placed a suitable position. These functions will be introduced after.

The function of the windows application

Build up new mission

Users can build up a new mission. The mission will keep all climatic data which the UAV will collect.

Data collection

The real-time data will be collected as soon as the drone is connected to the application and the "Start" button is pressed. These collected real-time data will be shown by graph at a specific position where it is on the same page as real-time view.

Output result

When the mission is done. The user can output all collected data with a JSON file and related graph to the directory which the user selects.

Display real-time view from UAV

Users can watch the real-time view of the UAV on the view by the video streaming technology when the notebook computer connects to the UAV. If the connection is failed, there are black view only.

Display location of UAV on map

Users can watch the location of the UAV on the map when the computer connects to the UAV. If the connection is failed, there are black view only.

Display details of UAV

Users can watch the details of the UAV including airspeed, attitude, altitude, turn coordinator, heading and vertical speed on the view by when the computer connects to the UAV. If the connection is failed, there are black view only.

Connect UAV

The user should connect a UAV to the system. If the connection is invalid, the system cannot execute the main functions including data collection, streaming, displaying location and details of the UAV.

Disconnect UAV

If the user wants to stop using the UAV, the user can disconnect the UAV. After that, the main functions will be stopped, but all collected data will be kept.

UAV

The inspection sensor of the UAV

The system minimally requires a gyroscope, accelerometer, magnetometer (compass) and barometer. A GPS or other positioning system is needed to enable all automatic modes, and some assisted modes.

* MS5611 barometer
* U-blox M8N GLONASS/GPS/Beidou (antenna connector type MCX)

The system contains two 9DOF (degree of freedom) IMU - MPU9250 and LSM9DS1. Each of them combines a gyroscope, an accelerometer and a magnetometer in one device. IMU sensors are not only popular as a part of drone autopilot projects, but are also widely used in devices like cellphones, tablets, etc.

* MPU9250 9DOF IMU
* LSM9DS1 9DOF IMU

For Climatological data, we install below sensors:

* DHT22 Temperature-Humidity Sensor

+The DHT22 is a basic, low-cost digital temperature and humidity sensor. It uses a capacitive humidity sensor and a thermistor to measure the surrounding air. It's fairly simple to use but requires careful timing to grab data. The only real downside of this sensor is you can only get new data from it once every 2 seconds, sensor readings can be up to 2 seconds old.

* MQ-2 Semiconductor Sensor for Combustible Gas Sensor

Sensitive material of MQ-2 gas sensor is SnO2, which with lower conductivity in clean air. When the target combustible gas exists, the sensor’s conductivity is higher along with the gas concentration rising. Using a simple electro circuit, convert change of conductivity to correspond output signal of gas concentration.

MQ-2 gas sensor has high sensitivity to LPG, Propane and Hydrogen, also could be used to Methane and other combustible steam, it is with low cost and suitable for different application.

* SDS011 Laser PM2.5 Sensor

The SDS011 using principle of laser scattering, can get the particle concentration between 0.3 to 10μm in the air. It with digital output and built-in fan is stable and reliable.

* UV Detection Sensor

Just a normal UV sensor.

System Design

*How to make our application user-friendly*

To increase the system acceptability, we will develop different prototype to test to make sure all users can use our system easily without professional knowledge. And the system will use simple English to reduce hinder when new user uses our system.

Visualization for climatic data

The system will provide the visualization climatic data. The system will make some graphs using the UAV collected data to display the patterns or the trends of the environment changing to the user. These data include PM2.5, UV, temperature, humidity and gas etc. The system will generate the graphs instantly when the data is received from the UAV' sensors. The meteorological research team can research the environment by these graphs. Finally, these graphs can be outputted and keep for user to study further.

Description for the data outputting

For the climatic data, it will be outputted by JSON format to a file. JSON is the best tool for the sharing data because the data is stored in the arrays. When the user wants to further handle these data, this format is suitable for different software. In the file, it will include all data during the whole running time, interval and unit for each sensor. The following is a sample of the JSON file.

{

" humidity":

{

"data" : [55, 50,55,57]

" unit" : "%RH"

" interval" : "5000"

}

"temperature":

{

" data" : [15.25,15.22,15.20,25.19]

"unit" : "C"

"interval" : "5000"

}

}

Constraints  
Wi-Fi stability problem

For our project, we use an AWUS036NHA Wi-Fi adapter to broadcast the video and control signal. This adapter will provide around 280mW output power. Ranges of several kilometers have been reported (with directional antennas though). But the big problem is the connection problems. Sometimes, the network connect was too slow, the mobile app needs a few times to update the information to keep the data consistency.

Also, we cannot confirm the range because we do not want to take the risk to lose our device.

## Battery capacity limitation

For our project, we consider using 4s3p Samsung 30Q LiPo battery pack. This Samsung 18650 battery will provide max 3000mAh of rated discharge capacity and max 20A discharge current.

For the flight time:

**Flight times = (Battery Capacity \* Battery Discharge /Average Amp Draw) \* 60 minutes**

Flight times=(9000mAh∗80%/20A)∗60 minutes=21.6 minutes

Under my calculation, this battery will provide 21.6 minutes of flight times.

## Fire risk with the LiPo battery

For our project, we use Lithium Polymer technology which allows considerable energy to be stored in a small package. But they are associated with fire risk and have been known to spontaneously catch fire while charging or if punctured. Most airlines restrict the numbers of batteries on board. Check with your airline for their policy on transporting batteries. It is recommended never to leave them unattended while charging and to transport and store them in a fireproof box.

## Weather problem

It is not recommended to fly drones in rain, snow, or even in the drizzle. Apart from any physical effects on the aircraft, there is a danger the electronics will be damaged, and communication between the controller and the drone can be affected when there is any kind of precipitation in the air.

## Hong Kong Drone Regulations

According to Hong Kong national aviation authority, the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department (HKCAD), flying a drone is legal in Hong Kong, but they also set some rules:

**General Safety Guidelines for Flying UAS**

Any person who operates UAS shall observe the following general safety guidelines, unless otherwise permitted by CAD.

**1.Where you cannot fly**

(i)UAS shall not be flown in the vicinity of an airport and aircraft approach and take-off paths, which include:

-Areas within 5 km of Hong Kong International Airport;

-North Lantau coastal area;

-Coastal areas from Tai Lam Chung to Tsuen Wan and Tsing Yi Island;

-Victoria Harbour and its coastal areas; and

-Shek Kong area.

(ii)UAS shall not be flown over populated and congested areas.

(iii)UAS shall not be flown over, or close to, any object, installation or facility that would present a risk to safety in the event of damage due to any impact by the UAS, or in such a manner that the good order and discipline and control thereof may be or may likely be jeopardized.

3

**2.Good Choice of Flying Sites**

A good choice of flying site not only minimises the possibility of an accident but also enhances the pleasure of the flying experience.

Here are some tips to help you choose a good site. A good site should be:

(i)clear of persons, vessels, vehicles or structures;

(ii)away from helicopter landing pads;

(iii)clear of any power sources such as power lines, transformer stations, pylons, and transmitter towers etc., which might cause radio interference;

..3(iv)flat enough to enable safe take-off and landing; and

(v)free from visual obstruction, so that the operator can see the UAS in flight at all times.

**3.Altitude**

The altitude of operations shall not exceed 300 feet (~90 m) above ground level.

**4.Time of Operations**

The operations of UAS shall be conducted during daylight hours only.

**5.Weather Criteria**

(i)UAS shall only be operated under good visibility and weather conditions.

(ii)UAS shall not be operated when Rainstorm Warning, Tropical Cyclone Warning or Strong Monsoon Signal is in force.

**6.Heavy UAS**

Except with Civil Aviation Department's endorsement, heavy UAS weighing more than 7 kg (without its fuel) is not allowed to fly in Hong Kong.

**7.Control of UAS**

The UAS operator shall be on site and keep the UAS within Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) during the period of the flight. Operating within VLOS means that the UAS operator is able to maintain direct, unaided (other than corrective lenses) visual contact with the UAS, and is able to monitor the UAS flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vessels, vehicles and structures for the purpose of avoiding collisions.

**8.Safety Check on UAS**

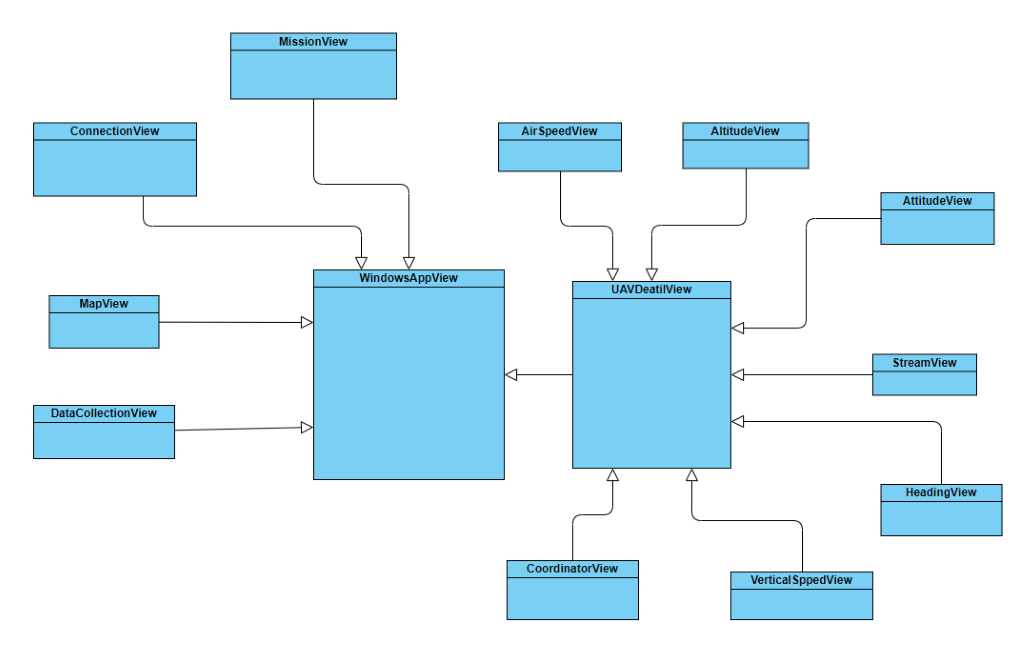
The UAS operator shall perform a safety check on UAS (including its fuel or lithium batteries) before operating UAS.

Documentation for problem analysis

## Entity Relationship Diagram

## Data Dictionary

## Class Diagram (Window app)



## Use Case Diagram (Mobile app)



## Use Case Description of Mobile App

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use case name: | Connect UAV |
| Use case ID: | UC-0001 |
| Actor(s): | Client |
| Brief description: | The app will connect with the UAV through Wi-Fi connection. |
| Preconditions | The mobile phone has installed the app |
| Flow of events: | 1.open the application on mobile.  2. switch on the UAV  3. Connect both the UAV and mobile to the same Wi-Fi |
| Postconditions: | ／ |
| Alternative flows and exceptions: | User had to connect the correct Wi-Fi. Otherwise, it cannot connect the UAV. |
| Non-behavior requirements: | ／ |
| Assumptions: | The user use Android devices. |

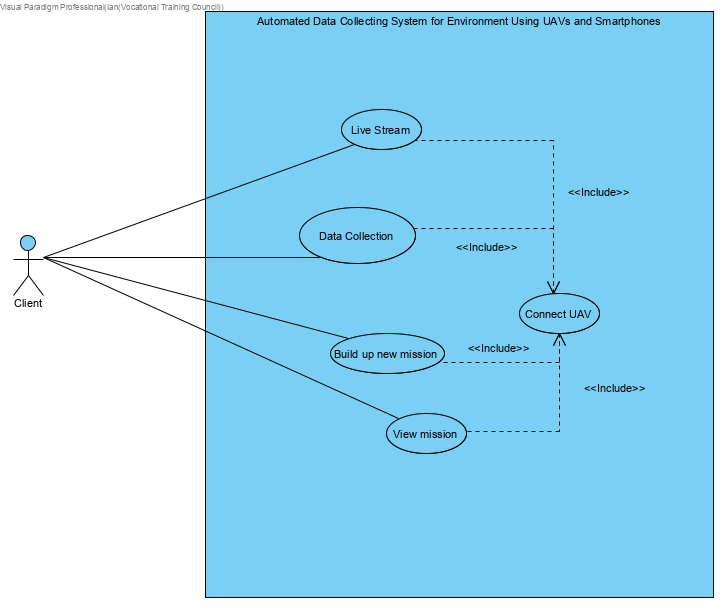
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use case name: | Control UAV |
| Use case ID: | UC-0002 |
| Actor(s): | Client |
| Brief description: | The app will display virtual joysticks. User could use them to control the UAV with actions include "rise", "decline", "go", "back", "turn" and "translation". |
| Preconditions | The mobile had connected to correct and available Wi-Fi |
| Flow of events: | 1.Include (Connect UAV)  2.Control the UAV by virtual joysticks |
| Postconditions: | ／ |
| Alternative flows and exceptions: | User had to connect the correct Wi-Fi. Otherwise, it cannot control the UAV. |
| Non-behavior requirements: | ／ |
| Assumptions: | The user use Android devices. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use case name: | Live stream |
| Use case ID: | UC-0003 |
| Actor(s): | Client |
| Brief description: | The app will display image captured by the camera on the UAV during controlling the UAV. |
| Preconditions | The mobile had connected to correct and available Wi-Fi |
| Flow of events: | 1.Include (Connect UAV)  2.switch on camera on UAV connected  3.Press view live button  4.The app display the live image. |
| Postconditions: | ／ |
| Alternative flows and exceptions: | User had to connect the correct Wi-Fi. Otherwise, it cannot view live image the UAV. |
| Non-behavior requirements: | ／ |
| Assumptions: | The user use Android devices. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use case name: | View UAV status |
| Use case ID: | UC-0004 |
| Actor(s): | Client |
| Brief description: | The user could view the UAV status such as height from the app. |
| Preconditions | The mobile had connected to correct and available Wi-Fi |
| Flow of events: | 1.Include (Connect UAV)  2.Press view UAV status button  3.The app display current status of the UAV |
| Postconditions: | ／ |
| Alternative flows and exceptions: | User had to connect the correct Wi-Fi. Otherwise, it cannot view live image the UAV. |
| Non-behavior requirements: | ／ |
| Assumptions: | The user use Android devices. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use case name: | Take Photo and record video |
| Use case ID: | UC-0005 |
| Actor(s): | Client |
| Brief description: | User could take photo during live stream. |
| Preconditions | The mobile had connected to correct and available Wi-Fi |
| Flow of events: | 1.Extend (Live Stream)  2.Press record video button or press camera-liked button  3.The app will capture current display as a video or photo |
| Postconditions: | ／ |
| Alternative flows and exceptions: | User had to connect the correct Wi-Fi. Otherwise, it cannot view live image the UAV. |
| Non-behavior requirements: | ／ |
| Assumptions: | The user uses Android devices. |

## Use Case Diagram (Windows app)



## Use Case Description of Windows App

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use case name: | Connect UAV |
| Use case ID: | UC-0001 |
| Actor(s): | Client |
| Brief description: | The app will connect with the UAV through Wi-Fi connection. |
| Preconditions | The notebook computer has installed the app |
| Flow of events: | 1.open the application in the notebook computer.  2. switch on the UAV  3. Connect both the UAV and notebook computer to the same Wi-Fi |
| Postconditions: | ／ |
| Alternative flows and exceptions: | User had to connect the correct Wi-Fi. Otherwise, it cannot connect the UAV. |
| Non-behavior requirements: | ／ |
| Assumptions: | The user uses Windows computer devices. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use case name: | Live stream |
| Use case ID: | UC-0002 |
| Actor(s): | Client |
| Brief description: | The app will display real-time streaming captured by the camera on the UAV during controlling the UAV. |
| Preconditions | The notebook computer had connected to correct and available Wi-Fi |
| Flow of events: | 1.Include (Connect UAV)  2.switch on camera on UAV connected  3.Press view live button  4.The app displays the live image. |
| Postconditions: | ／ |
| Alternative flows and exceptions: | User had to connect the correct Wi-Fi. Otherwise, it cannot view live image the UAV. |
| Non-behavior requirements: | ／ |
| Assumptions: | The user uses Windows computer devices. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use case name: | Data Collection |
| Use case ID: | UC-0003 |
| Actor(s): | Client |
| Brief description: | The real-time climatic data will be collected and shown at a specific position on the screen. |
| Preconditions | The notebook computer had connected to correct and available Wi-Fi |
| Flow of events: | 1.Include (Connect UAV)  2.switch on the UAV and connects it to the notebook computer  3.Real-time climatic data will be collected and display in the set position immediately after successfully connected both computer and UAV |
| Postconditions: | ／ |
| Alternative flows and exceptions: | User had to connect the correct Wi-Fi. Otherwise, it cannot view live image the UAV. |
| Non-behavior requirements: | ／ |
| Assumptions: | The user uses Windows computer devices. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use case name: | Build up new mission |
| Use case ID: | UC-0004 |
| Actor(s): | Client |
| Brief description: | The app will store real-time data on the UAV during connection to the UAV. |
| Preconditions | The notebook computer had connected to correct and available Wi-Fi |
| Flow of events: | 1.Include (Connect UAV)  2.switch on the UAV and connects it to the notebook computer  3.Press “build up new mission” button  4.A new mission will be built. |
| Postconditions: | ／ |
| Alternative flows and exceptions: | User had to connect the correct Wi-Fi. Otherwise, it cannot view live image the UAV. |
| Non-behavior requirements: | ／ |
| Assumptions: | The user uses Windows computer devices. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use case name: | View mission |
| Use case ID: | UC-0005 |
| Actor(s): | Client |
| Brief description: | "View mission” can let user check the real-time data it collected. |
| Preconditions | The notebook computer had connected to correct and available Wi-Fi |
| Flow of events: | 1.Include (Connect UAV)  2.switch on the UAV and connects it to the notebook computer  3.Press “View mission” button  4.The user can now check the previous missions and the collected data. |
| Postconditions: | ／ |
| Alternative flows and exceptions: | User had to connect the correct Wi-Fi. Otherwise, it cannot view live image the UAV. |
| Non-behavior requirements: | ／ |
| Assumptions: | The user uses Windows computer devices. |

## State Transition Diagram

### Android Application



Windows Application  


# Documentation for Detailed Design

## UI Design

### Windows Application User Interface Design

The main view consists of four-part including the live view, details of the UAV, the map and the graphs. The live view displays the real-time view from the UAV by live-streaming technology.



### Dashboard

The detail of the UAV displays the UAV's information including airspeed, attitude, altitude, turn coordinator, heading and vertical speed by the dashboard.



### Map

The map view displays the location of the UAV by the google map API.



### Graph

For the data collection, the system will draw the graphs by the collected data when the "Start" button is pressed. There are five graphs. The user can use the scroll bar to watch another graph.