

Autonomous at Sea Inspection

Sea Level



Technology Used



Purpose

Communication
ROV Dispatch
ROV Collection

Ocean



AUV



Autonomous Surveillance
Subsea Cable Monitoring

Seabed



ROV



Subsea Infrastructure
Repairs
Oil Platform Inspections

Context: Pilot Test

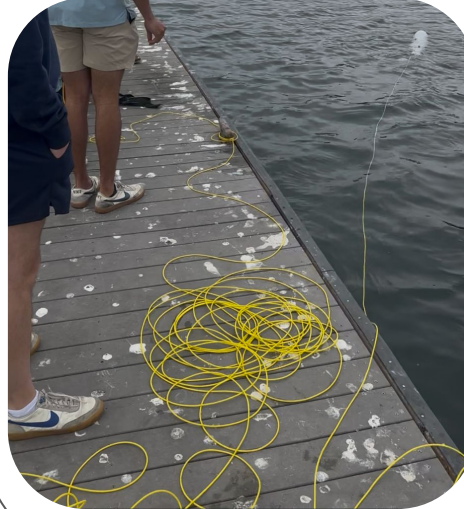
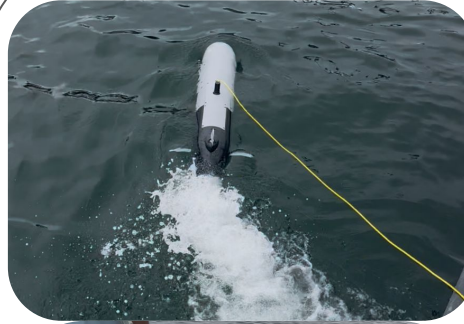
Several Problems related to the tether were noticed:

- 30 meter max distance
- Tether cable constantly tangled
- Bulky Setup
- Knots formed when reeling in Tether
- Not viable for autonomous deployment

Proposed solution

- Build wireless communication to increase range and eliminate tangles

Tether Photos

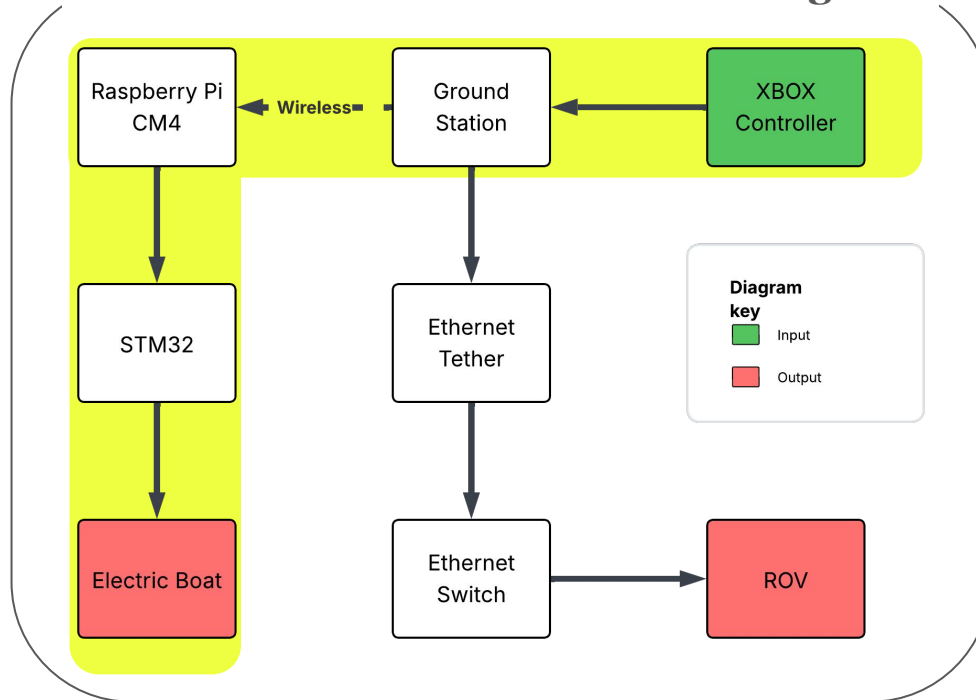


Communication Network: Goal / Design

High Level Goal:

- Build wireless communication system to enable offshore boat control without a tether

Communication Network Block Diagram



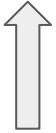
Communication Network: Steps 1 for Data Transfer

Communication Network Data Flow

TCP Server &
Client
(Forwarding
over WiFi)



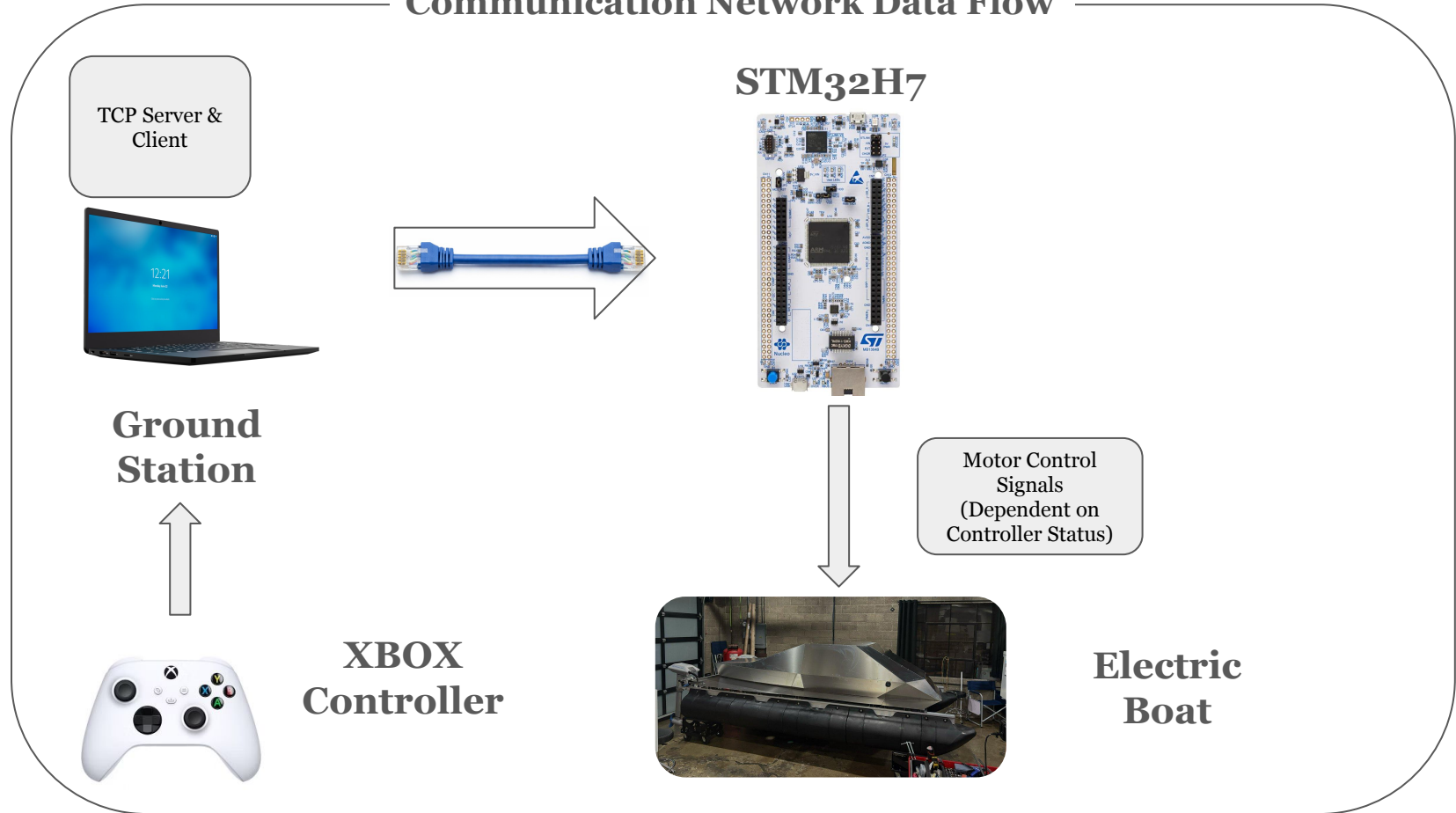
**Ground
Station**



**XBOX
Controller**

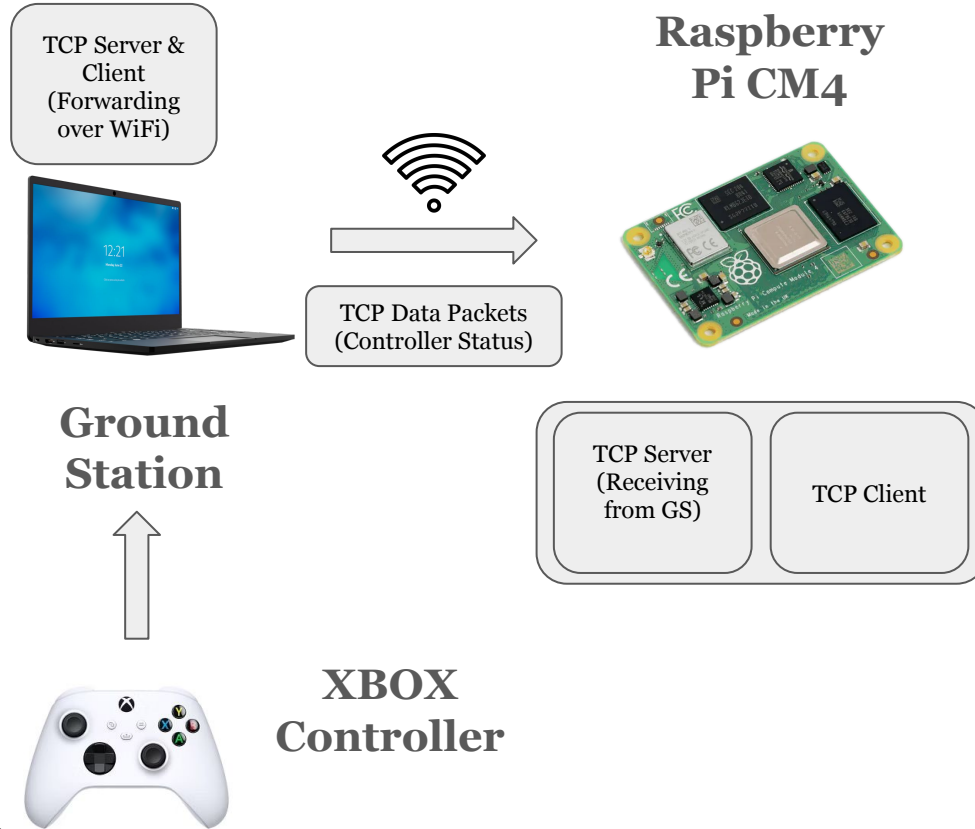
Communication Network: Step 2 for Data Transfer

Communication Network Data Flow



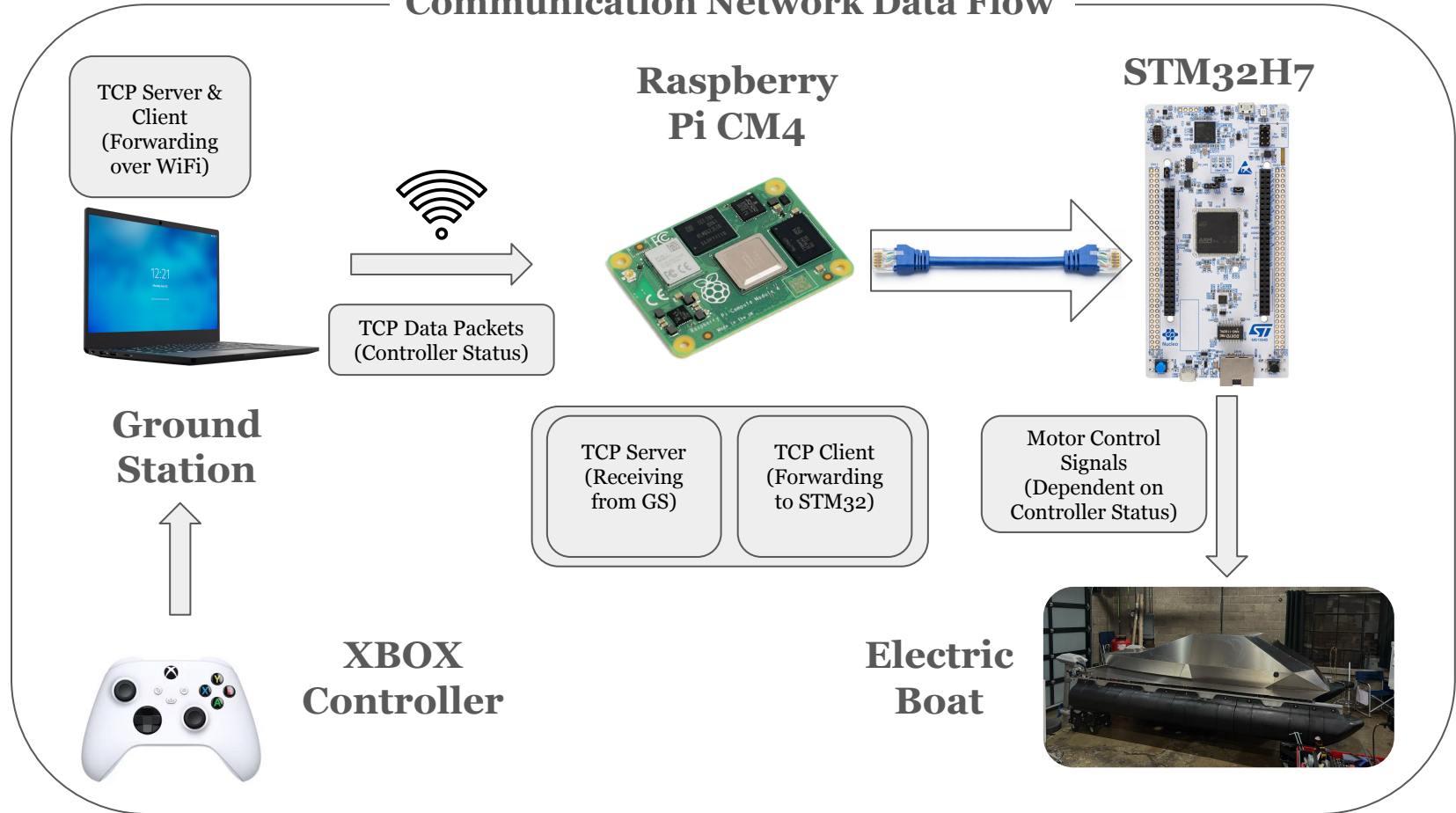
Communication Network: Step 3 for Data Transfer

Communication Network Data Flow



Communication Network: Step 4 for Data Transfer

Communication Network Data Flow



Communication Network: Building WiFi Gateway

Problem #1

Ping from ground station to STM32 over wifi not working

Approaches for #1

Used Wireshark to sniff signals aiding in testing communication

Problem #2

Had to constantly reconfigure the ip address whenever I disconnected the ethernet cable

Approaches for #2

Changed static IP address, also wrote a script automating configuring the ip address

Communication Network: Ethernet/ MPU Configuration

Problem #1

Xbox TCP server didn't work when integrated into the main codebase due to MPU memory configuration

Approaches for #1

Reconfigured MPU with LWIP

- a. Heap, Rx buffer, and DMA descriptors are in SRAM
- b. Set the region to non-cacheable region (prevents cache coherency CPU & DMA)

Problem #2

There was a pre-established pin configuration and thread priority in the main codebase

Approaches for #2

Consulted with the other software engineer to agree on pins and determine thread priority for operations

Technical Dive: Outcome & Impact

Communication Network Impacts

- Plausible Operating Range increase from 30m to 300m (assuming 15 dB signal)
 - No range limiting knots
 - Increased maneuverability
- Large decrease in operation cycle time
- Increase in viability for long distance autonomous system

