

Wireless Security

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Wireless Security Lab Spoofing Android GNSS measurements

Andrea Nardin

Contents

- ► Lab briefing: Android GNSS measurements
- ► Lab Tasks



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Motivation

Examples of mobile applications using location



















- Cost/form factor and size effective
- Processing capacity
- Benefits of embedded sensors and communication interfaces
- Going beyond single frequency (e.g., Broadcom BCM47755 in Xiaomi Mi 8 Pro)

Availability of GNSS raw measurements from Android 7 onwards

- Opens the door to more advanced GNSS processing techniques
- Raw measurements allow to optimize the multi-GNSS solutions [on-chip PVT can be optional]

Release of white paper for using GNSS Measurements on Android Devices

Bridges the gap between GNSS experts and Android developers







GNSS in COTS devices: pills of history



1999: Benefon Esc



May 2018: Xiaomi Mi 8 Pro



March 2004: TomTom



February 2005: Google Maps

https://www.gpsworld.com/wirelesssmartphone-revolution-9183/ By Frank van Diggelen, Broadcom Corporation 1999

May 2000

2001

2006

2008

2016

2018

Mobile phone manufacturer Benefon launched the **first commercially-available GPS phone**, a safety phone called the Benefon Esc! The GSM phone was sold mainly in Europe, but many other GPS-enabled mobile phones would follow.

Switch-off of the Selective Availability (SA)

As GPS receiver technology got much smaller and cheaper, private companies began pumping out **personal GPS products**, like the in-car navigation devices from Tom Tom and Garmin.

Google patented the SUPL service (US7714779B2) to provide "real-time" long-term-orbit **ephemeris data to mobile Android** devices by overcoming the need of demodulating the whole navigation message (almanac and ephemeris).

Google Maps was first released for Android and iOS after the introduction of **My Location** feature using **GPS/Assisted GPS** supplemented by wireless network and cell sites

Google allowed the **access to raw measurements** through a specific Location API available on Android API-Level 24.

The first **Dual Frequency GNSS smartphone**, the Xiaomi Mi 8 Pro, approached the market with the embedded Broadcom BCM47755 chipset

2020 • 2° Generation Broadcom Chipsets BCM47765 with High-Definition GPS (HDGPS)

! Optional on-chip PVT calculations!



GNSS Inside an Android phone







BROADCOM®

Xiaomi Mi 8 Pro

GENERAL FEATURES

- Integrated multi-frequency GNSS baseband and RF front end for simultaneous reception of GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou (BDS), Galileo (GAL), and SBAS satellite systems
- Support for position batching, geofencing, sensor fusion and sensor navigation

ADC & CLOCK

- Integrated 12-bit, 2-channel ADC
- Timers: One Real-time Clock (RTC) (42 bits, 32.768 kHz)
- Two general-purpose 32-bit microsecond timers
- One 48-bit microsecond counter for better resolution timestamps than the RTC can provide



Behind an Android phone

The most common way to obtain a position on Android is via a **fused location** provider that combines several sources (GNSS, Wi-Fi or even mobile networks) to improve the accuracy, time to first fix, availability or power consumption

aka Google Play Services aka Google Mobile Service

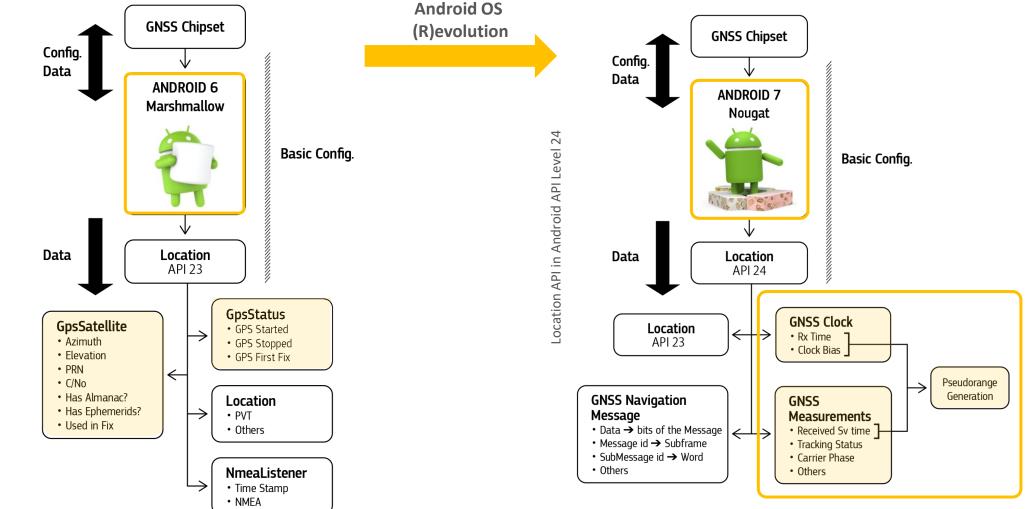
GNSS and Space Weather Rabat, Morocco, May 2022

Most Android phones have this (not China) Location APIs, android.gms.location Places Geofencing Fused Location Provider (FLP) **Activity Recognition** Nearby All Android phones have this Measurement/Sensor APIs, in android.location Location GnssMeasurement GNSS Raw Measurements GnssClock All phones with: GNSS chips build date ≥ 2016 OS ≥ Android N (Nougat) Wi-Fi/Cell-ID F. Van Diggelen, M. Khider, Mobile Phones for Sensors **GNSS Receiver** Hardware Hardware Network Ionospheric Measurements, ION Africa Outreach, Regional Workshop on



Access to GNSS Raw Measurements

- Starting with Android 6, developers could access basic GNSS data like satellite info and position solutions through the Location API.
- From API 24 (Android 7), this expanded to include raw measurements, navigation messages, and GNSS clock data
- Data come from the chipset, but direct access to the chipset is restricted







How to read data

Android 7 Location - Clock and Measurements				
ANDROID CLASS	FIELD	DESCRIPTION		
GNSSClock	TimeNanos	GNSS receiver's internal hardware clock value in nanoseconds		
GNSSClock	BiasNanos	Clock's sub-nanosecond bias		
GNSSClock	FullBiasNanos	Difference between TimeNanos inside the GPS receiver and the true GPS time since 0000Z, 6 January 1980		
GNSSClock	DriftNanosPerSecond	Clock's drift		
GNSSClock	${\it Hardware Clock Discontinuity Count}$	Count of hardware clock discontinuities		
GNSSClock	LeapSecond	Leap second associated with the clock's time		
GNSSMeasurement	${\it ConstellationType}$	Constellation type		
GNSSMeasurement	Svid	Satellite ID		
GNSSMeasurement	State	Current state of the GNSS engine		
GNSSMeasurement	ReceivedSvTimeNanos	Received GNSS satellite time at the measurement time		
GNSSMeasurement	Accumulated Delta Range Meters	Accumulated delta range since the last channel reset		
GNSSMeasurement	Cn0DbHz	Carrier-to-noise density		
GNSSMeasurement	TimeOffsetNanos	Time offset at which the measurement was taken in nanoseconds		
GNSSMeasurement	CarrierCycles	Number of full carrier cycles between the satellite and the receiver		
GNSSMeasurement	CarrierFrequencyHz	Carrier frequency at which codes and messages are modulated		
GNSSMeasurement	PseudorangeRatemetersperSecond	Gets the Pseudorange rate at the timestamp		

Fundamental to the determination of pseudorange measurements

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Table included in the White paper, "Using GNSS Raw Measurements on Android Devices"



How to read data

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getTimeNanos

Local Timestamp attributed to the measurements



For battery saving or other reasons determined by the operating system, clock might have discontinuities!



How to read data

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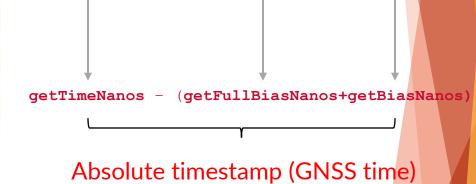


Table included in the White paper, "Using GNSS Raw Measurements on Android Devices"



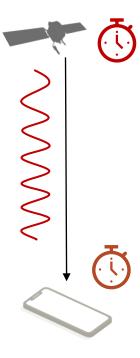
How to determine pseudorange measurements



TRANSMISSION TIME

Transmission time in GNSS time scale

TxTime= ReceivedSvTimeNanos





RECEPTION TIME

Absolute Timestamp attributed to the measurements

Rxtime= getTimeNanos - (getFullBiasNanos+getBiasNanos) -weekNumberNanos



How to determine pseudorange measurements



TRANSMISSION TIME

Transmission time in GNSS time scale

TxTime = ReceivedSvTimeNanos



RECEPTION TIME

Absolute Timestamp attributed to the measurements

Rxtime = getTimeNanos - (getFullBiasNanos+getBiasNanos) -weekNumberNanos



PSEUDORANGE MEASUREMENTS

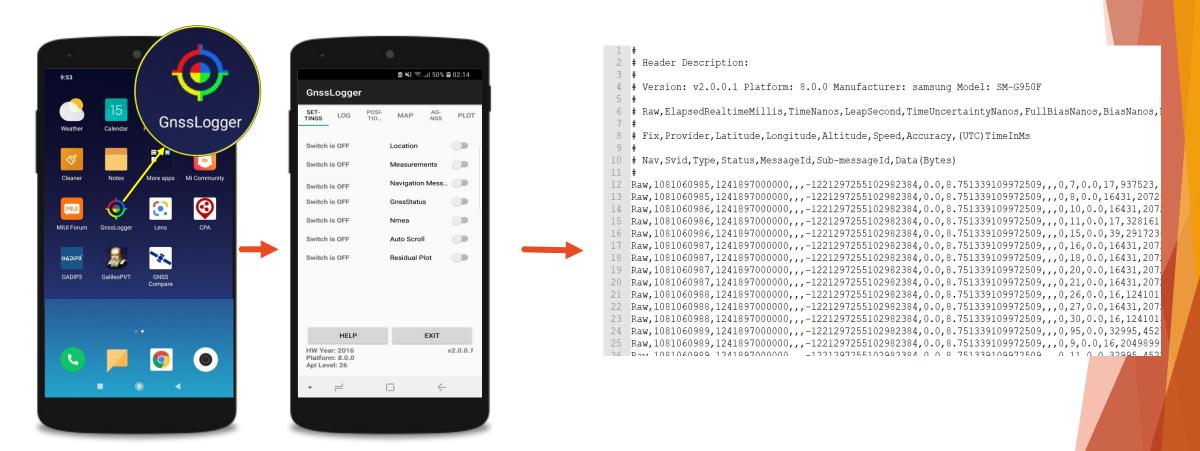
Geometrical distance between satellite and receiver still affected by local clock bias

Raw = (Rxtime - TxTime) *c



How to perform an Analysis

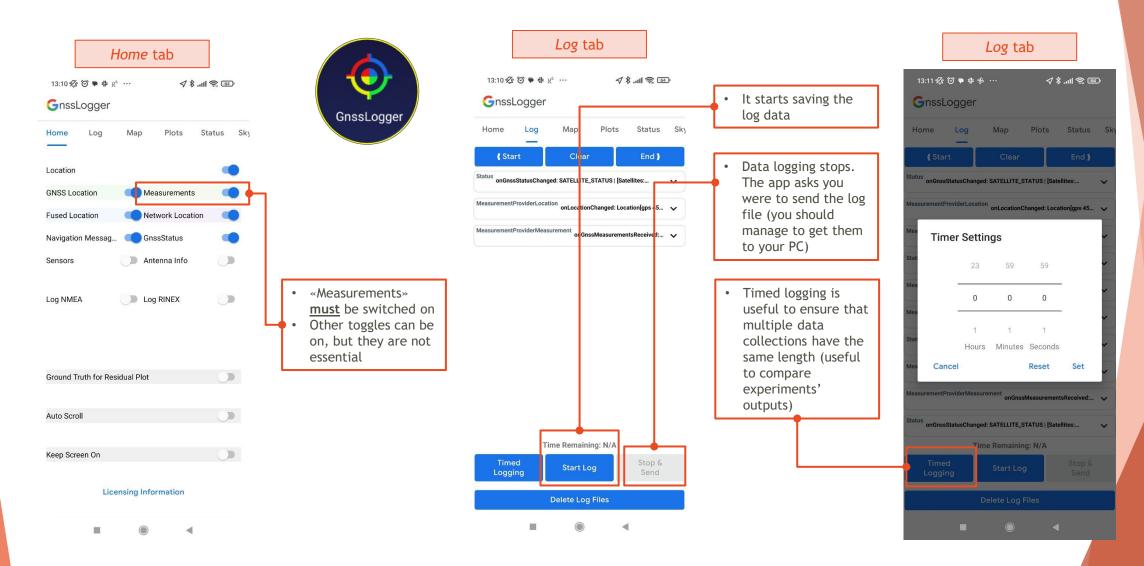
1) ACQUIRING & LOG MEASUREMENTS on Android Phones



2) PROCESSING LOGGED MEASUREMENTS through **Google's MATLAB tool** to inspect data and compute position, velocity, and time (PVT)

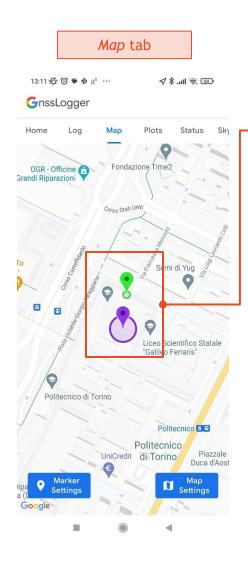


How to perform an Analysis: GNSS Logger App

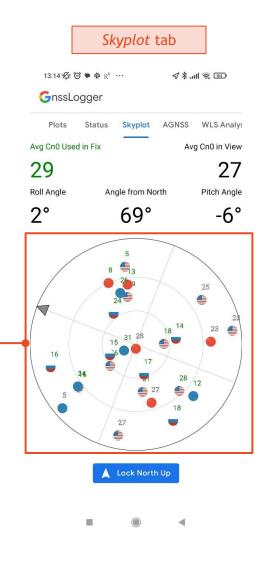




How to perform an Analysis: GNSS Logger App



- Positions from different OS location providers are shown (GNSS, network, fused)
- The GNSS position (green) is different from the network location provider position (purple)
- A **Skyplot** shows the position of satellites in terms of azimuth and elevation
- A satellite at the center of the plot is on top of your head (zenith)
- A satellite on the outer circle is at the horizon
- You can also get skyplots at a given spacetime location from https://www.gnsspl anning.com/#/setti ngs





which

are the

signals



Material and references

- White paper, "Using GNSS Raw Measurements on Android Devices"
 - https://www.gsc-europa.eu/sites/default/files/sites/all/files/gnss_raw_measurement_web_0.pdf
- GNSS Analysis MATLAB code (or app) and Android Logger APK can be downloaded from:
 - ► GnssAnalysis[OS].zip: https://github.com/google/gps-measurement-tools/releases/tag/2.0.0.1
 Gnsslogger.apk: https://github.com/google/gps-measurement-tools/releases/tag/2.0.0.1



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References:

- [1] https://www.gpsworld.com/wirelesssmartphone-revolution-9183/
- [2] https://developer.android.com/reference/android/location/GnssMeasurement
- [3] http://gpsworld.com/google-opens-up-gnss-pseudoranges/
- [4] S. Banville, F. Van Diggelen, "Precise GNSS for Everyone: Precise Positioning Using Raw GPS Measurements from Android Smartphones", GPS World 27(11), November 2016. http://gpsworld.com/innovation-precise-positioning-using-raw-gps-measurements-from-android-smartphones/
- [5] F. Van Diggelen, "GNSS Measurements Update", GSA Raw Measurements Workshop, Prague, 30 May 2018. https://www.gsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/expo/frank_van_diggelen_keynote_android_gnss_measurements_update.pdf



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- ► <u>Lab Tasks</u>



LAB TASKS

TASK

1

Download the <u>modified</u> *Google's GPS measurement tool* <u>from the portal</u> and extract the content of the opensource folder.

TASK

2

Launch the main script and perform the analysis of raw measurements ("gnssmeas") and PVT solution ("gpsPvt") using the datasets provided on the portal. Inspect the output plots.

Optional: try some data filters.

TASK

3

Download the *GNSS logger app* from play store and retrieve new data collections (e.g. 5 minutes) using an Android device. Perform raw measurements and PVT analysis. Discuss the output plots with respect to the data collection conditions and compare them (e.g. open sky conditions? Were some line-of-sight signals obstructed? <u>Battery</u> saving mode?)

TASK

4

From the previous step retrieve the coordinates of your estimated position (median). Alternatively, if you can pin your true position on Google Maps, you can extract it from there. Use these coordinates to set a spoofed location not far from your original one.

E.g. spoof.position = [trueLatutude trueLongitude trueAltitude] + 1e-3; What is the effect on the position? More generally, what effects can you notice on the tool outputs?



LAB TASKS

TASK

5

Now try a different spoofed position. For instance, pin a point on Google maps, not too far from the data collection location, extract the Latitude and Longitude coordinates (choose a reasonable altitude if you can't find it) and use them to set a value for <code>spoof.position</code>. Did you get what you expect? What did it change? By observing the plots, can you imagine some spoofing detection strategy?

TASK

6

Add a spoofing delay through <code>spoof.delay</code> (try in the order of milliseconds) without changing the spoofed position. Does the estimated position change? What changes can you notice? Why? What would be the consequences on a GNSS receiver's performance?

TASK

7

Optional: Repeat the data collection in peculiar and interesting conditions worth to be investigated. For example, near potential interference sources (e.g. broadcasting TV antennas, microwave ovens, phone calls, etc.) and inspect (if any) the effects on the GNSS observables. It would be ideal to perform also a reference experiment in nominal conditions without the interference. However, this is not always achievable.

Remember that you would need similar satellite conditions, e.g. similar experiment location and time (or time+k*24hrs, since the <u>GPS</u> satellites configuration over your head repeats every 24hrs).

TASK

8

Prepare a laboratory report following the report guidelines of the course. In the report, discuss **tasks 3, 5, 6**, and, optionally, **task 7**.



Get and Run GPS-MEASUREMENT-TOOLS

- Download the <u>enhanced</u> Google's GPS measurement tool <u>from the portal</u>
- 1. Unzip **gps-measurement-tools-master** and go inside **opensource** folder
- Open main script: ProcessGnssMeasScript.m with MATLAB
- 3. Copy your log file(s) inside **~/opensource/demoFiles** (e.g. **~/opensource/demoFiles/myLogs**)
- 4. Match your folder path by updating dirName (e.g. ~/opensource/demoFiles/myLogs)



In case of issues in the use of the enhanced Google's gps-measurement-tools-master downloaded from the portal, you can consider using the more stable version available on Google's github (it may need some workaround with some smartphones models and it has no cyberspoofing enabled)



- Main Script: ProcessGnssMeasScript
 - Launching the main script is enough to process raw measurements, perform the PVT, and plot the results
- ► Function to process the raw measurements and compute code Pseudoranges:
 - [gnssMeas] = ProcessGnssMeas(gnssRaw);
- Function to perform GNSS PVT:
 - gpsPvt = GpsWlsPvt(gnssMeas,allGpsEph);



Input Parameters:

- File Name and Directory Name
- True Coordinate (if known, they are used to compute errors, otherwise leave blank)

```
prFileName = 'pseudoranges_log_2016_06_30_21_26_07.txt'; %with duty cycling, no carrier phase
% prFileName = 'pseudoranges_log_2016_08_22_14_45_50.txt'; %no duty cycling,
% as follows
% 1) copy everything from GitHub google/gps-measurement-tools/ to
% a local directory on your machine
% 2) change 'dirName = ...' to match the local directory you are using:
dirName = '~/Documents/MATLAB/gpstools/opensource/demoFiles';
% 3) run ProcessGnssMeasScript.m script file
param.llaTrueDegDegM = [];
```

- ► Try running the script with the demo log file first!
- Example of true coordinates in LLA (latitude, longitude, altitude) frame: [45.0621, 7.6633, 295.070] ... where is this location?



Spoofing input parameters

```
%% Spoofing settings
spoof.active = 1; % [1: spoofing active, 0: spoofing disabled]
spoof.delay = 40.212e-3; % [s] additional delay introduced by the spoofer [s]
spoof.t_start = 15; % [s] start spoofing time
spoof.position = [45.063454, 7.679441, 347.48]; % spoofed position
```

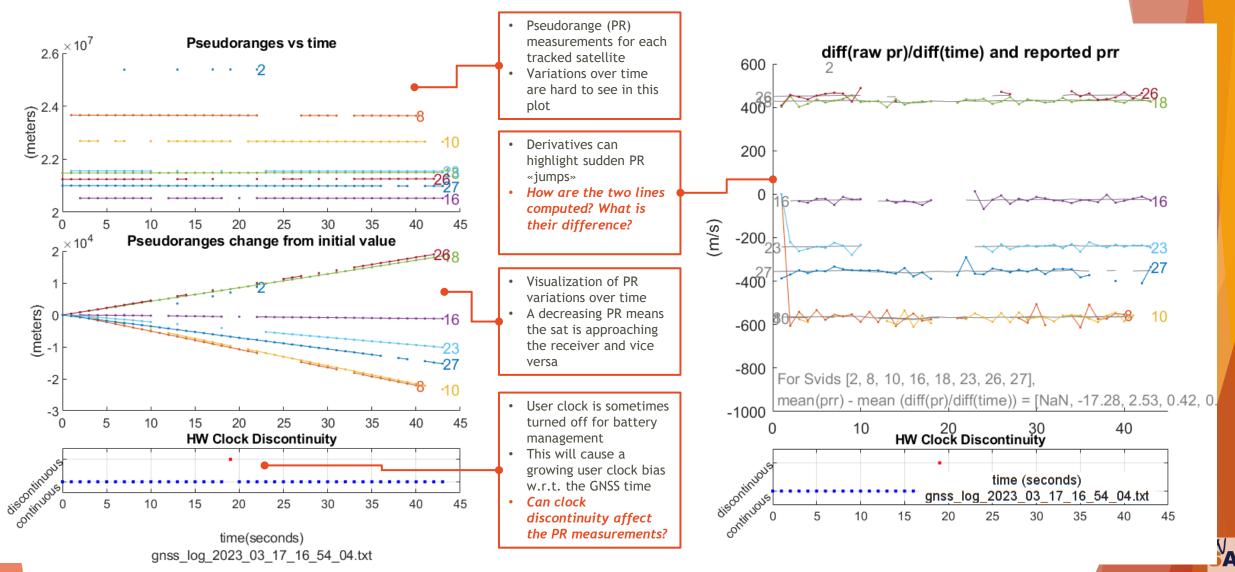
 The effect of a spoofing attack is emulated acting on the measurements extracted from your data collection (see README for details).



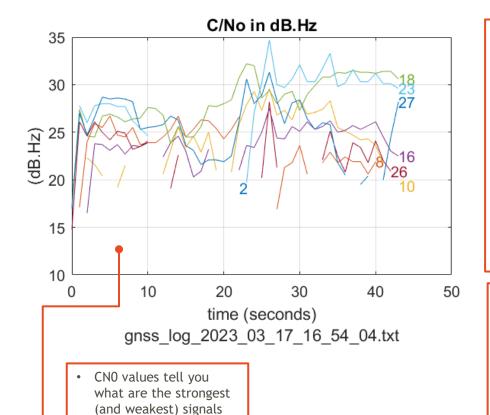
- Setting the spoof.delay emulates re-broadcasting after a delay + relative distance between spoofer and victim.
- Setting the spoofer position emulates re-broadcasting from spoof.position or, equivalently, the desired counterfeit location induced
- The net result is like a cyberspoofing attack



How to perform an Analysis: MATLAB analysis tool



How to perform an Analysis: MATLAB analysis tool



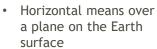
and therefore the

less) accurate

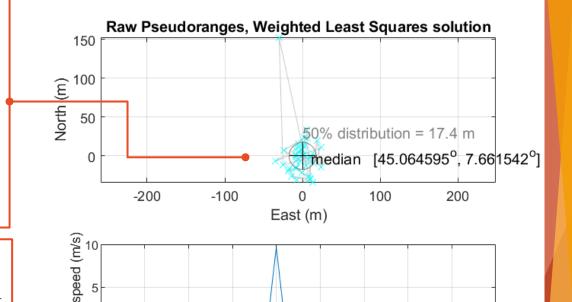
measurements

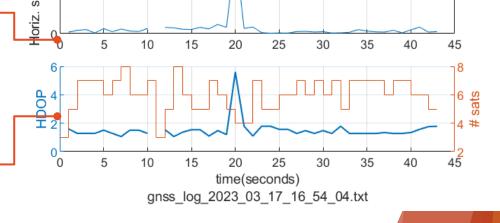
potentially more (and

- If true location has been set, it is shown alongside the median
- Outliers can be identified, but not easily mapped to time
- The circle contains the best 50% of the estimates (the larger the circle, the less precise the estimation)
- What happens to the median if you are moving?



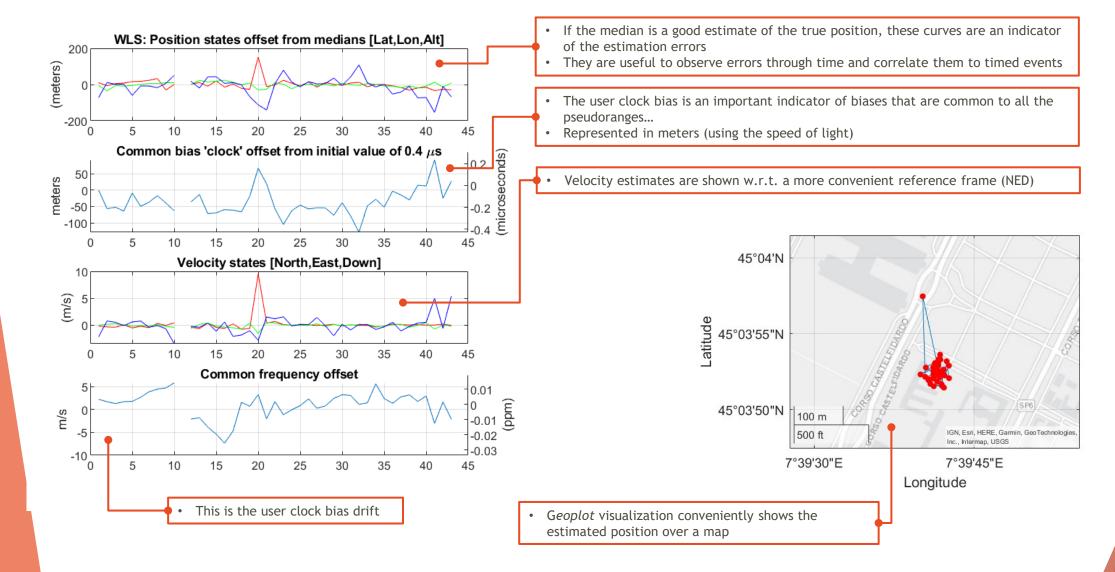
- Even a static user might have oscillations (it's an estimate!)
- How is the speed calculated?
- Horizontal dilution of precision (HDOP) is a measure of how satellite geometrical distribution around the user impacts the estimated position
- The smaller, the better. A large HDOP can cause large PVT estimation errors
- HDOP is closely related to the number of tracked satellites: with less satellites in view, it is more likely to experience bad geometrical conditions







How to perform an Analysis: MATLAB analysis tool





- Data Filter:
 - dataFilter = SetDataFilter;
 - ▶ Use some default filters by uncommenting them.
 - Warning: Google's MATLAB tool functionalities for constellations other than GPS are limited (better to avoid this filter)
 - ► Example: Exclude specific satellites

```
dataFilter{end+1,1} = 'Svid';
dataFilter{end,2} = 'Svid ~= 4';
```

- Write your own custom filter.
- ► Example: C/N0

```
dataFilter{end+1,1} = 'Cn0DbHz';
dataFilter{end,2} = 'Cn0DbHz>30';
```



Acquiring the Ephemeris:

```
%% Get online ephemeris from Nasa ftp, first compute UTC Time from gnssRaw:
fctSeconds = le-3*double(gnssRaw.allRxMillis(end));
utcTime = Gps2Utc([],fctSeconds);
allGpsEph = GetNasaHourlyEphemeris(utcTime,dirName);
if isempty(allGpsEph), return, end
```

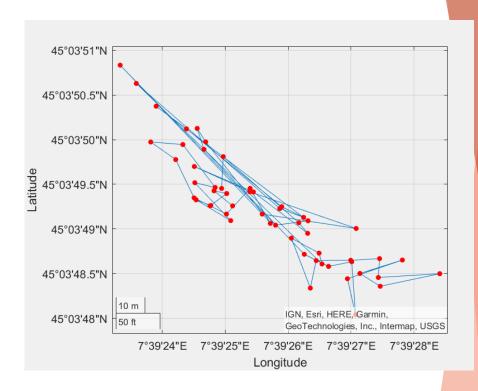


After running the script for the first time, unzip the downloaded ephemeris in "demoFiles" folder, if automatic unzip does not work



Report Guidelines

- Abide by the rules outlined in the course intro slides
- Keep it short (no more than 4 pages). Select only the meaningful plots that are relevant with respect to your comments (focus on your own data collection)
- In the report it's crucial to provide a clear and concise overview of the experiment's **purpose**, **methods**, **results**, **and conclusions**. However, we are <u>not interested in a mere repetition of the theoretical concepts</u> from classes, rather we are interested into an insightful analysis of the results.
- If you make qualitative assessments, they <u>must</u> be substantiated.
 - For instance, avoid commenting a plot like the one in the figure claiming that the estimate is «not accurate». Rather, measure its dispersion (e.g. variance, standard deviation, root mean square) and/or compare it with other data collections





Report Guidelines cont'd

- Prepare a report of a maximum 4 pages (plus applendix) using the LaTeX conference-style format for ACM CCSthat you can find on www.overleaf.com.
 - Overleaf is a free online editing system for LaTeX. It allows collaborative editing, with a simple interface and visual editor based on LaTeX, the most used markup system to describe scientific documents.
 - LaTeX is a markup system in the early 1980s by Leslie Lamport who extended the original TeXfirst released in 1978 by Donald Knuth. Since then, it has been the de facto standard for producing scientific documents. It lets you focus on the content and not on the pagination. There are plenty of LaTeX tutorials, e.g., the Overleaf help pages.
- You need to create a free account on Overleaf, then create a new document by looking for the Sample ACM CCS template.
- Next, modify the document format to
 - use the "review" option: \documentclass[sigconf, review] {acmart}
 - change authors, title, etc.
 - remove the copyright part to save space:
 - ▶ \setcopyright{none} %remove the (c) section
 - ▶ \acmConference{Wireless Security Report}{Torino}{2024} % set a possibly significant conference name
 - ▶ \acmPrice{} % leave the rest empty. These will still appear.
 - ▶ \acmISBN{}
 - \acmDOI{}
- You can share the document using the Share with link option so that anyone with the link can collaborate to edit the file.



Report Guidelines cont'd

Report preparation: Your lab report should follow a scientific paper structure and be written in a clear, concise, and technical style. The report should demonstrate your understanding of GNSS signal collection and the effects of spoofing (without repeating the theoretical lecture), as well as your ability to analyze and interpret data.

You can organize your report according to the following outline (feel free to modify it):

▶ 1. Introduction

- Purpose of the experiment: Briefly explain what the lab is about and why it's important.
- Objectives: Clearly state the goals of the experiment (e.g., to collect raw GNSS data using an Android device, and to analyze the effects of spoofing on positioning or observations quality).

2. Methods

- Devices and tools used: List and describe the Android devices, apps (e.g., GNSS Logger), spoofing tools, and any post-processing software.
- Data collection procedure:
 - How and where the GNSS data was collected (e.g., open sky, indoors, under spoofing conditions).
 - Settings used during data logging (e.g., battery saving enabled, logging duration).
- Spoofing setup: Describe how spoofing was introduced and its settings/characteristics
- Data analysis: Explain how you processed or visualized the data (e.g., pseudorange analysis, position error, statistical analysis).

3. Results and Discussion

- Data presentation:
 - Include plots, tables, and summaries of key results. Try to follow lab tasks and report outputs (plots, tables, etc) when relevant for the discussion.
 - ▶ Highlight differences between spoofed and unspoofed data.

Interpretation:

- Discuss what the data shows about the quality of GNSS measurements and PVT under different conditions.
- ▶ If spoofing was performed, explain its effect on position estimates or signal metrics.
- Mention any anomalies, unexpected results, or challenges encountered.

Limitations:

 Discuss any sources of error or limitations in your setup or data interpretation.

4. Conclusion

- Summary: Recap the main findings in concise sentences.
- Insights gained: Reflect on what the experiment reveals about GNSS systems and spoofing vulnerabilities.
- Future work: Briefly suggest potential improvements or extensions for this kind of experiment.

Formatting Notes:

- Include figures and tables with appropriate captions and references in the text.
- ▶ Cite any tools, apps, or relevant literature you used or referred to.
- Use technical terminology appropriately but define any concepts that are not commonly known (or reference proper sources)



Inside the MATLAB Code: Glossary

```
allRxMilliseconds:
                      Milliseconds at which the measurements are dumped (loca time);
gnssMeas.FctSeconds: Fetch Time in Seconds (local time);
N:
        Number of fetch seconds (measurements records and PVT if everything goes well;
gnssMeas.ClkDCount:
                     zeros(N,1);
gnssMeas.HwDscDelS: zeros(N,1);
gnssMeas.Svid:
                  all the sv ids found in gnssRaw
        Number of unique Svid
M:
gnssMeas.AzDeg:
                 Satellites Azimuth Degrees
                  Satellites Elevation Degree
gnssMeas.ElDeg:
gnssMeas.tRxSeconds: Time of reception, seconds of GPS week
gnssMeas.tTxSeconds: Time of transmission, seconds of GPS week
gnssMeas.PrM: PseudoRange Measurements;
qnssMeas.PrSigmaM: Pseudorange Standard Deviation;
gnssMeas.DelPrM: DeltaPseuodrangeMeasurements;
gnssMeas.PrrMps: Pseudorange Rate;
qnssMeas.PrrSigmaMps: Pseudorange Rate Standard Deviation;
gnssMeas.AdrM:
                 Accumulated Delta Range Measurements;
                      Standard Deviation of the Accumulated Delta Range Measurements;
gnssMeas.AdrSigmaM:
qnssMeas.AdrState: Accumulated Delta Range State;
gnssMeas.Cn0DbHz: C/No;
```



LAB troubleshooting

- ▶ In case of issues with **ephemeris extraction** (i.e. getting satellite positions from internet), we recommend a manual extraction of the ephemeris data retrieved from NASA's CCDIS service, matching the date and time of your data collection.
- ► Files logged through the GNSSLogger App v3.0.0.1 might break the code depending on the model of your device, chipset, or API version
- ▶ **Old logs** available in dataset_a and dataset_b might require old-format ephemeris that cannot be automatically decompressed. In case you want to use them, please, extract them manually after the download
- ► *GeoPlot* and other functions could be not available for old or basic MATLAB installations. MATLAB will warn you about the **toolbox needed**, and you can add it to your installation a posteriori, using your Mathworks license. Geoplot is part of the *Mapping Toolbox*.
- ► In general, try to apply your engineering skills to fix the issue first. If you cannot solve it after reasonable effort, the instructor is here to help.

