

Low Cost Sensor Monitoring using Mesh Connected Ultra-Low Power Long-Range Transceivers

by

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the degree of Master of Engineering (Electrical and
Electronic) in the Faculty of Engineering at Stellenbosch
University*

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Declaration

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Abstract

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Thesis: MEng (EE)

March 2021

Vibrating a tillage tool is an effective way of reducing the draft force required to pull it through the soil. The degree of draft force reduction is dependent on the combination of operating parameters and soil conditions. It is thus necessary to optimize the vibratory implement for different conditions.

Numerical modelling is more flexible than experimental testing and analytical models, and less costly than experimental testing. The Discrete Element Method (DEM) was specifically developed for granular materials such as soils and can be used to model a vibrating tillage tool for its design and optimization. The goal was thus to evaluate the ability of DEM to model a vibratory subsoiler and to investigate the cause of the draft force reduction.

The DEM model was evaluated against data ...

Uittreksel

Lae Koste Sensor Monitor Sisteem wat Mesh-Verbind, Ultra-lae Krag, Lang Aftstands Versenders Gebruik

(“Low Cost Sensor Monitoring using Mesh Connected Ultra-Low Power Long-Range Transceivers”)

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Maart 2021

Om ‘n tand implement te vibreer is ‘n effektiewe manier om die trekkrag, wat benodig word om dit deur die grond te trek, te verminder. Die graad van krag vermindering is afhanklik van die kombinasie van werks parameters en die grond toestand. Dus is dit nodig om die vibrerende implement te optimeer vir verskillende omstandighede.

Numeriese modulering is meer buigsaam en goedkoper as eksperimentele opstellings en analitiese modelle. Die Diskrete Element Metode (DEM) was spesifiek vir korreleerbare materiaal, soos grond, ontwikkel en kan gebruik word vir die modellering van ‘n vibrerende implement vir die ontwerp en optimering daarvan. Die doel was dus om die vermoë van DEM om ‘n vibrerende skeurploeg te modelleer, te evalueer, en om die oorsaak van die krag vermindering te ondersoek.

Die DEM model was geëvalueer teen data ...

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following people and organisations ...

Dedications

Hierdie tesis word opgedra aan ...

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Nomenclature

Constants

$$g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$$

Variables

Re_D	Reynolds number (diameter)	[]
x	Coordinate	[m]
\ddot{x}	Acceleration	[m/s ²]
θ	Rotation angle	[rad]
τ	Moment	[N·m]

Vectors and Tensors

$$\vec{v} \quad \text{Physical vector, see equation ...}$$

Subscripts

a	Adiabatic
a	Coordinate

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background

1.2 Objectives

The main objective of this thesis was to develop a coverage path planning algorithm that utilises multiple UAVs to search a known environment. This research is intended to be applicable to search and rescue operations.

1.3 Methodology

1.4 Scope of the Research

1.5 Thesis Structure

Chapter 2

Background

2.1 SatSim

In granular or particle flow simulations with Discrete Element Method (DEM), the mechanical behavior of a system of particles are simulated. The basic building blocks of DEM are finite sized particles and walls. It is generally classified into two basically different approaches.

The first is the “hard sphere”, event-driven method (e.g. Luding, 1994, 2004), where particles are assumed to be perfectly rigid and they follow an undisturbed motion until a collision occurs. Due to the rigidity of the interaction, the collisions occur instantaneously with accompanying momentum transfer. It is mainly used for collisional, dissipative granular gases.

The second is the so-called “soft particle” molecular dynamics pioneered by where the particles are allowed to overlap or penetrate each other. Constrains on the physical space that a particle can occupy at a specific time is included with contact or penalty forces related to the amount of overlap and contact velocity between particles or between particles and walls. The motion of the system is modelled by the integration of Newton-Euler equations for motion of every individual particle.

Chapter 3

SatSim

3.1 Terrestrial

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Chapter 4

Verifying SatSim Results

4.1 Scope

In granular or particle flow simulations with Discrete Element Method (DEM), the mechanical behavior of a system of particles are simulated. The basic building blocks of DEM are finite sized particles and walls. It is generally classified into two basically different approaches.

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Chapter 5

Hardware Selection

5.1 Scope

In granular or particle flow simulations with Discrete Element Method (DEM), the mechanical behavior of a system of particles are simulated. The basic building blocks of DEM are finite sized particles and walls. It is generally classified into two basically different approaches.

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Chapter 6

Hardware Design with Software Implementation

6.1 Scope

In granular or particle flow simulations with Discrete Element Method (DEM), the mechanical behavior of a system of particles are simulated. The basic building blocks of DEM are finite sized particles and walls. It is generally classified into two basically different approaches.

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Chapter 7

Hardware Verification and Comparison to SatSim

7.1 Scope

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Chapter 8

Conclusions

8.1 Scope

In granular or particle flow simulations with Discrete Element Method (DEM), the mechanical behavior of a system of particles are simulated. The basic building blocks of DEM are finite sized particles and walls. It is generally classified into two basically different approaches.

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Appendices

Appendix A

Discrete Element Method Theory

A.1 Ball elements

A.1.1 Ball mass and inertia parameters

Consider a volume element dV with respect to a static base S of an arbitrary solid body with density ρ . The mass of the body is obtained by integrating over the volume of the body,

$$m = \int_{\text{body}} \rho dV \quad (\text{A.1})$$

In figure A.1, a ball with radius R_i and uniform density ρ_i is depicted. The mass of the ball is after integration of equation (A.1)

$$m_i = \frac{4}{3}\pi\rho_i R_i^3. \quad (\text{A.2})$$

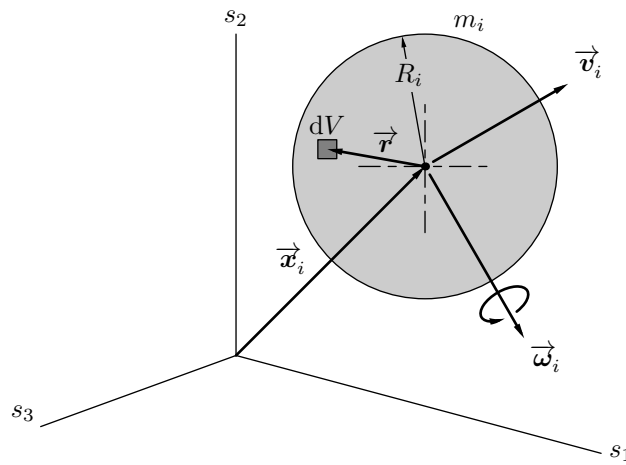


Figure A.1: Ball Element Parameters

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