**3D Spectrum Sensing Map via Drone Mounted Receiver**

Karl Roush

Lincroft, NJ 07738 [karlroush@gmail.org](mailto:karlroush@gmail.org)

**I. Abstract**

This project seeks to develop and test a low-cost, easy to use approach to signal mapping. The proposed objective will be accomplished by mounting an Android mobile device on a 3DR Solo drone. Data will be collected via a signal strength measurement app, outputted to a .csv file. The program Octave will be used to place the data points into three dimensional space. At this point, a custom written interpolation algorithm uses the nearest neighbor node signal strength theory to fill in the space where no data is collected. All of this data is then placed onto a 3D graph, for user end visualization. The applications of this project are fourfold. Firstly, this approach will allow for the identification of signal leakage beyond designated broadcasting bands. Secondly, this approach will allow an optimization of signal output based on nearby topography. Thirdly and fourthly, this approach will allow for ease of troubleshooting, as well as general diagnostics.

**II. Introduction**

Weather plays a large role in people’s everyday lives. Almost everyone checks the weather before going outside or planning events. However, there are very few ways of measuring and presenting the data. This is most common with precipitation events such as rain or snow.

Currently there are two primary measurements associated with precipitation: accumulation and precipitation element size. The more common of these two measurements is accumulation which is often seen in weather forecasts and reports. The other measurement (precipitation element size) is not as common, but it often used in estimating the amount of damage that a weather event will cause. Climate data measures several other data types, many of which have few practical uses.

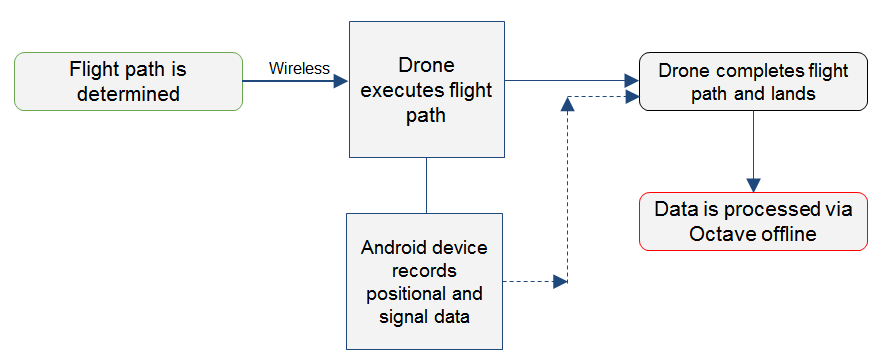
As such, there is a dire need for a better protocol to measure precipitation events, beyond the conventional accumulation techniques. This study, which has an end goal of a more descriptive algorithm for weather measurement, has numerous applications in the world. Some of these include more descriptive forecasts (and therefore planning for predicted events) and a better way to describe previous weather events.

**III. Objective**

Create a 3D signal quality map using a drone as a mobile receiver carrier. This will be accomplished through the use of a 3DR Solo drone (receiver carrier), mobile Android device (signal recorder), and Octave (graphical program with custom written interpolation algorithms).

**IV. Implementation**

A piezoelectric sensor will be used to measure the impact force of rain drops while a flour filled baking sheet will capture the size of the precipitation element upon impact.



**Figure 1:** Simplified diagram of the various components and their interactions

**V. Materials, Equipment and Programs**

* Drone (3DR Solo)
* Mobile receiver (Android device)
* Data collection software (Network Signal Info app)
* Data processing program (Python/Octave)
* Computer with wireless connectivity

**VI. Data Collection**

**Drone Flight Path**

1. Determine area and height range where flight/data collection will occur
2. Open MissionPlanner program
3. Place waypoints in a designated path in the area
4. Link drone via wireless connection (UDP 14550; Port 500)
5. Export mission plan to drone

**Data Retrieval:**

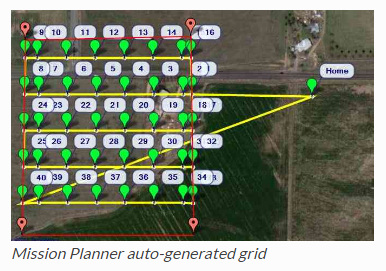
1. Turn on Android device
2. Connect device to network being tested
3. Open “Network Signal Strength Info” app
4. Mount device to gimbal of the drone
5. Retreat to safe distance (~50m, varies by drone)
6. Initiate flight plan via MissionPlanner
7. Once flight is complete, drone will land and be ready for retrieval

**VII. Data Availability**

The Network Signal Info (NSI) app logs data every 30 seconds; however interval modifications are also supported. The user can change how often data is logged or have the app log data at certain distance intervals. NSI does not support altitude changes as a way of logging data, though it does record the device’s position in three dimensional space. Regardless of the interval settings, the large quantity of data makes presentation within this paper difficult. As such, test data will be used in place of actual collected data.

**VIII. Flight Pathing**

Fight pathing is critical for optimal data collection. This can be accomplished by hand though it is tedious and often ineffective. There is a similar issue in the field of agriculture, specifically when it comes to placing seeds. The seeds must be as close as possible, but still have enough space between them to allow for watering and growth. Similarly, data needs to be logged at certain points in the area of interest- spaced out as far as possible to save time, but close enough to each other so that the interpolation algorithm is accurate.

Using the program MissionPlanner, a grid (called “auto grid”) was generated for the area of interest. These way points were then stored in a mission file, which is uploaded to the drone via a wireless. This flight plan is then executed by connecting to the drone (via its own wireless network) and running the appropriate flight sequences. 

**Figure 2:** Mission planner auto grid

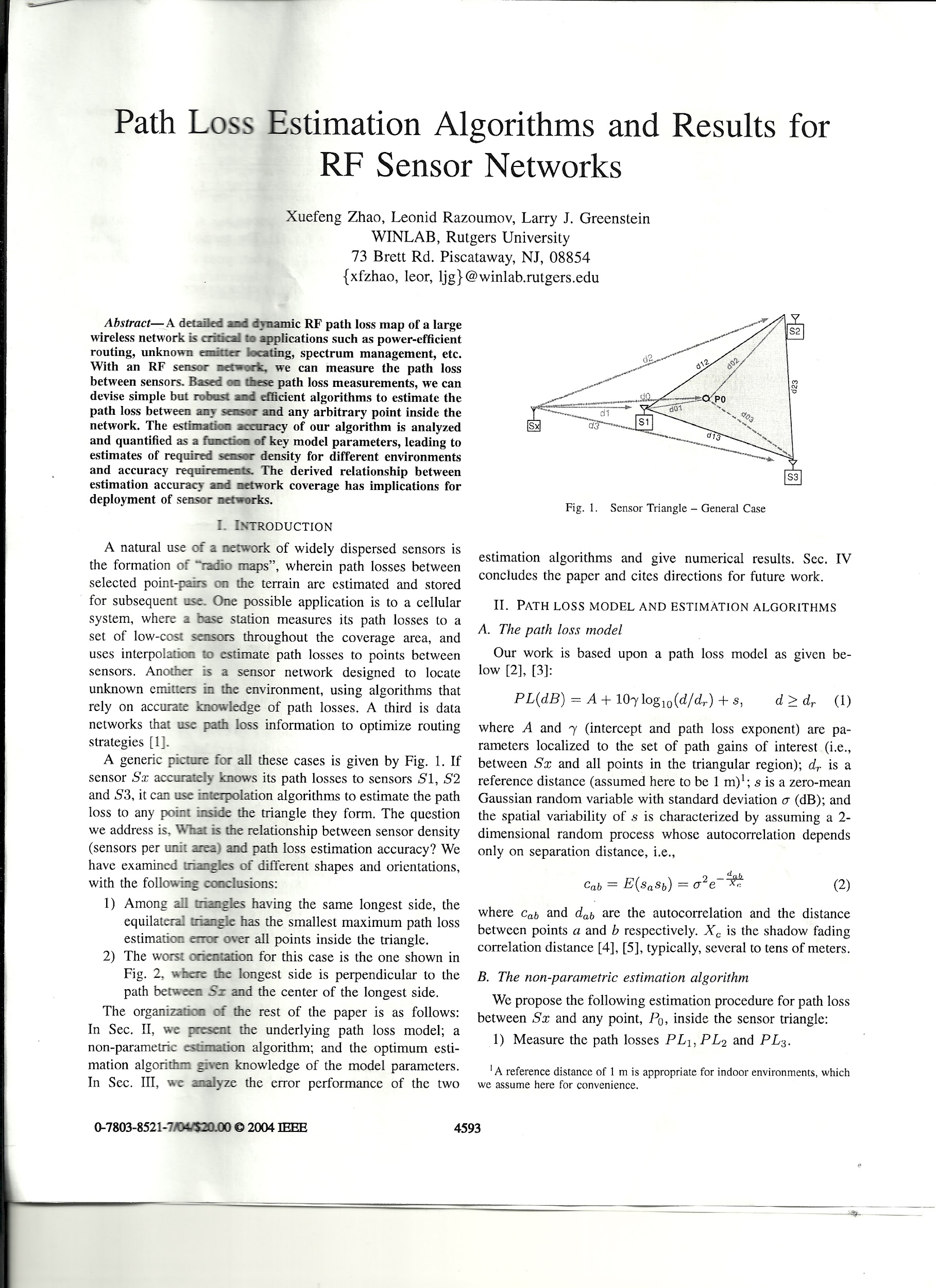
**IX. Data Analysis**

Data from the .csv log file is read into Python. This data is then placed onto a three dimensional graph and shown to the user. High signal strength is represented as red and low signal strength is represented as blue. The space between data is filled in by generating additional data points through a custom written interpolation algorithm (see next section). Currently, there is no way to represent time on the graph (five variables on three axes presents an issue), but if developed for commercial use, this could be remedied by continually generating graphs for the user.

In its current state, the program for data analysis is written in Python 3.6 . However, it is in the process of being ported over into Octave. Octave is a free version of MATLAB and is prevalent in many engineering fields. As such, an Octave version of the program is both easier to modify and offers more data manipulation options.

**Interpolation Algorithms**

In the field of spectrum mapping and networks, there are three major interpolation algorithms: nearest neighbor, inverse distance weighting, and natural neighbor. Each has specific applications, but are usually used for varying degrees of accuracy (previously mentioned in increasing order).

****

**Figure 3:** Diagram of sensor triangle (possible configuration of data points in 2D space)

**Nearest Neighbor**

**Graphical Output**

Signal data is logged in a .csv file, generated by the app. The program Octave is used to read the data from the file and place it into three dimensional space. A custom written interpolation algorithm uses the nearest neighbor node signal strength theory to fill in the space where no data is collected. All of this data is then placed onto a 3D graph.

**Conclusions**

Signal data is logged in a .csv file, generated by the app. The program Octave is used to read the data from the file and place it into three dimensional space. A custom written interpolation algorithm uses the nearest neighbor node signal strength theory to fill in the space where no data is collected. All of this data is then placed onto a 3D graph.

**Applications**

Signal data is logged in a .csv file, generated by the app. The program Octave is used to read the data from the file and place it into three dimensional space. A custom written interpolation algorithm uses the nearest neighbor node signal strength theory to fill in the space where no data is collected. All of this data is then placed onto a 3D graph.

**Further Research**

Signal data is logged in a .csv file, generated by the app. The program Octave is used to read the data from the file and place it into three dimensional space. A custom written interpolation algorithm uses the nearest neighbor node signal strength theory to fill in the space where no data is collected. All of this data is then placed onto a 3D graph.

**References and Works Consulted**

1. "Accessing Solo". 3DR Solo Development Guide. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
2. Agbabiaka, Ahmed. "Connecting Mission Planner To 3DR Solo". YouTube. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
3. "Calibration". 3dr.com. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
4. "Calibrations Process". 3dr.com. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
5. "Chirp Spread Spectrum". En.wikipedia.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
6. Churchward, Budd. "How To Set Up An SDR Radio". YouTube. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
7. Community, The. "Function Reference: Linspace". Octave.sourceforge.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
8. "Connecting To A Vehicle". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
9. "Direct-Sequence Spread Spectrum". En.wikipedia.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
10. "Dronekit-Python API Reference". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
11. "Dronekit-Python API: Air Speed". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
12. "Dronekit-Python API: Capabilities". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
13. Eaton, John. "GNU Octave: Documentation". GNU. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
14. "Example: Basic Mission". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
15. "Example: Guided Mode Movement And Commands (Copter)". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
16. "Example: Mission Import/Export". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
17. "Example: Simple Go To (Copter)". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
18. "FAQ - Octave". Octave Wiki. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
19. "Frequency-Hopping Spread Spectrum". En.wikipedia.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
20. "GNU Octave: Multiple Plots On One Page". Gnu.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
21. "GNU Octave: Object Sizes". Gnu.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
22. "GNU Octave: Three-Dimensional Plots". Gnu.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
23. "Guided Tutorial GRC". Gnuradio.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
24. "Guided Tutorial Introduction". Gnuradio. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
25. "Guiding And Controlling Copter". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
26. Honiball, Rob and emilio mendoza. "Can't Connect To Solo With Mission Planner". 3D Robotics Drone Forum. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
27. Hutchinson, Ian. "Octave/MATLAB® For Beginners, Part 1: Starting From Scratch". Ocw.mit.edu. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
28. "Installing Files And Code". 3DR Solo Development Guide. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
29. "Installing GR". Gnuradio.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
30. Long, P.J.G. "Introduction To Octave". University of Cambridge, Department of Engineering. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
31. Martin, Rich. "The Case For Transmit Only Communication". RU Department of Computer Science. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
32. "MATLAB Quick Guide". www.tutorialspoint.com. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
33. "Octave Programming Tutorial/Getting Started - Wikibooks, Open Books For An Open World". En.wikibooks.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
34. "Octave Support/Help". Octave. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
35. "Octave Tutorial #4 - Plotting Data". YouTube. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
36. "Planning A Mission With Waypoints And Events — Mission Planner Documentation". Ardupilot.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
37. "Quick Start". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
38. "Quick Start Guide". rtl-sdr.com. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
39. "RTL-SDR Tutorial: Receiving NOAA Weather Satellite Images". rtl-sdr.com. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
40. "Running The Examples". 3DR Solo Development Guide. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
41. "Running The Examples". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
42. Seeber, Balint. "Hacking The Wireless World With Software Defined Radio - 2.0". Black Hat Europe 2014. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
43. "Software Defined Radio (SDR) - RTL-SDR". YouTube. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
44. "Software Radio Basics". YouTube. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
45. ""Solo" Command Line Tool". 3DR Solo Development Guide. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
46. "Solo Compass Calibration How To?". 3D Robotics Drone Forum. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
47. "Spectral Flux Density". En.wikipedia.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
48. "Spread Spectrum". En.wikipedia.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
49. "Summer SDR Spectrum". GitHub. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
50. "Taking Off". Python.dronekit.io. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
51. Talbert, Robert. "Plotting Functions Of Two Variables In MATLAB (Part 2)". YouTube. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
52. "Time-Hopping". En.wikipedia.org. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.
53. Zhang, Yanyong. "Transmit Only For Dense Wireless Networks". Rutgers WINLAB. N.p., 2017. Web. 27 Feb. 2017.