Preliminary Design Document For RockSat-X Payload - Hephaestus

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Abstract

The Oregon State University (OSU) RockSat-X team shall be named Hephaestus. The preliminary design of our project shall be outlined in this document. The mission requires that the payload, an autonomous robotic arm, perform a series of motions to locate predetermined targets. The hardware shall be capable of performing the motions to reach the targets. The software shall determine the targets and send the commands to the hardware to execute the motion. The combination of the hardware controlled by the software shall demonstrate Hephaestus's ability to construct small parts on orbit. This document will focus on the implementation of the software, but shall include necessary project context including hardware.

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2 Technologies

2.1 Target Generation

2.1.1 Requirement Overview

The software shall generate points to be used in testing the Hephaestus arm. The points will constitute the total test of the arm, and should therefore include points representative of standard and edge cases. These points shall be used as targets for the arm body.

2.1.2 Solution Design

The points shall be generated in 3-D polar form, including an angle from normal, a radius, and a height. The angle shall be in the range of 0 and 359 degrees. An angle of zero degrees shall be in the direction of payload deployment. The radius shall be the distance from the arm's attachment to the base to the generated point. The height of the point, for the purpose of target generation, shall be constant. However the points will always be stored in a triple of angle from normal (θ), radius (r), and height (h).

2.2 Arm Movement

2.2.1 Requirement Overview

The software shall control the movement of the arm body assembly. The position of the tip of the arm shall be tracked in the coordinate notation described in section 2.2 above. The software shall rotate the arm body assembly in a full 360 degrees. The software shall additionally control the movement the height of the arm body assembly. The arm should descend and touch the baseplate of the payload at any rotation.

2.2.2 Solution Design

The movement of the arm shall be generated by a custom system where the movement of the arm is generated based on the current position and the starting position. The position of the tip of the arm shall be stored as decided from the list of solutions above. In the case of the selection of solution 3, the position will have an added height. The position shall be denoted as point p and shall be the location of the tip of the arm. The arm shall generate a series of commands for the motors to perform to go from p to the target, t_n where t_n is the n-th target. The movement of the arm shall be constrained by the heights of the arm so that it will not collide with the top or base plates.

2.3 Arm Position Tracking

2.3.1 Requirement Overview

The position of the arm shall be tracked using the same coordinate system described in the Target Generation requirement. The position of the arm shall be calculated using the known start position and the rotation of the motors.

2.3.2 Solution Design

The position of the arm shall be tracked using the motor movement to calculate p and p_{m2}. The initial position of the arm shall be defined in advance, and a sensor will be placed at that location. From there, the position will be tracked from the movement of the motors. The arm will recalibrate by returning to the initial position in order for the error to not increase over time. The position of the arm shall be denoted p, the location of the tip of the arm. From the coordinate p, the location of p_{m2}, the center of the middle joint of the arm, will be calculated. The height of p_{m2} will be calculated from the triangle made of the two arm sections, L1 and L2, and the radius of point p. From there the radius of the point p_{m2} can be calculated using the triangle of L1, h_{m2} and the radius of m2. Finally, the σ of p_{m2} shall be the same as that of p. Using this method will allow for the extra condition that point p_{m2} should never exceed the height of the can. Constrain rotation to not go all the way around.

2.4 Emergency Payload Expulsion

2.4.1 Requirement Overview

The software shall eject the arm upon system failure. System failure in this case is defined as the arm becoming lodged or stuck in a state where it is unable to retract. The software will enter Safety mode (defined in section 2.5.2) and attempt to retract the arm. If it is unable to complete this step, the system will continue attempting to eject the arm until ejection is completed

2.4.2 Solution Design

[TODO] Add description of states 7,8, and 9 of the state diagram.

1. **The software accepts a signal sent from the Shutdown state to the Safety state** Upon entering the Shutdown state, the system should succeed in closing the arm, the Arm Assembly Body should be retracted, and the OBC should be powered off. If any of these conditions are not met, a signal should be sent, resulting in a change of state from the Shutdown state to the Safety state, where the arm can be ejected.
2. **The software sends a signal to etner Safety state upon any failure to complete an arm-movement task** A timer should be implemented to detect whether a certain amount of time has elapsed between the last arm movement and the last request for an arm movement. If arm movement requests are not being met by arm movements, and the system stalls past a certain amount of time, the system should send a signal to enter the Safety state so that the arm can be ejected, as it is most likely caught in a bad extended position.
3. **The software shall notify via telemetry that ejection was required** In the post-mortem analysis, we will want to know whether an ejection was necessary and what caused the bad state. The system shall, upon receiving a signal that ejection is required, send a log description of the current coordinates of the arm, the time elapsed since last arm movement request, and what state the system was in prior to being sent to the Safety state.

2.5 Program Modes of Operation

2.5.1 Requirement Overview

The software shall have the Modes of Operation necessary to insure the mission success. The software shall first deploy the payload, then the arm. Next the software shall activate the camera and perform a video sweep. The software shall then perform the science experiment. If the experiment fails, it shall return to observation mode. If observation mode fails, it shall return to idle. Once the experiment time has been exhausted, the payload shall shut down. If it shuts down correctly, everything will poweroff. If not, the payload shall attempt to retract again, or expel the payload from the rocket.

2.5.2 Solution Design

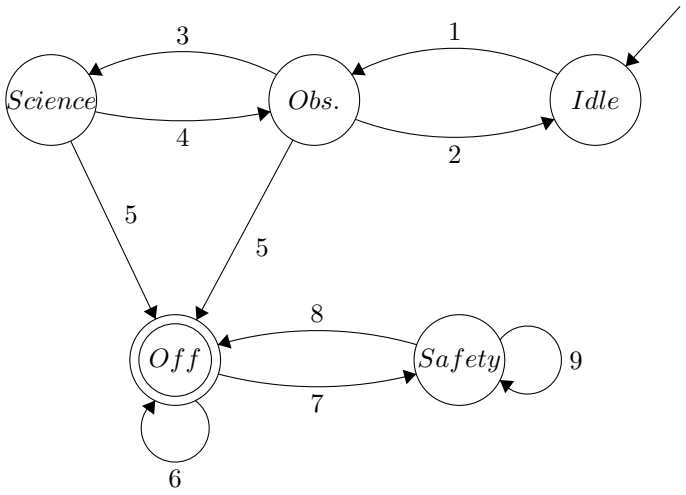

Diagram of software states of operation and transition between states [2].

Transitions between states occur as numbered:

1. **Appogee is reached.** The software shall activate when the power line goes to high at 28V. Observation mode shall be triggered when the OBC turns on.
2. **Error: Return to Idle.** If an error is encountered in entering Observation mode, the software shall fallback to Idle mode and retry. An error may occur if the payload fails to deploy correctly or if the camera fails to turn on.
3. **Payload Assembly and Camera have been deployed.** The software shall enter science mode once the payload assembly and arm have deployed and the camera has performed an observation sweep.
4. **Error: Return to Observation** The software shall return to observation mode if any error occurs in Science mode. An error may occur in Science mode if the arm fails to operate correctly and must return to default position. An error may also occur if the camera stops working.
5. **Timer switches to end appogee period.** Once the time period for observation has ended, the timer line will go to low and trigger to Shutdown state. This state can be reached from either Observation or Science mode.
6. **Accept: Shutdown correctly** If Shutdown occurs correctly, the arm should be closed, the Arm Assembly Body should be retracted, and the OBC should be powered off.
7. **Error: Shutdown not completed successfully.** If an error occurs in the shutdown sequence, the software shall enter Safety mode.
8. **Payload is Shutdown correctly.** If the payload is Shutdown through Safety mode, shutdown can be completed. In Safety mode the payload was either shut down correctly, retracted fully into the can with the arm open, or the arm was expelled safely from the rocket.
9. **Error: Shutdown not completed successfully.** If an error occurs in the shutdown sequence, the software shall enter Safety mode.

10. **Payload is Shutdown correctly.** If the payload is Shutdown through Safety mode, shutdown can be completed. In Safety mode the payload was either shut down correctly, retracted fully into the can with the arm open, or the arm was expelled safely from the rocket.

11. **Error: Payload is still deployed.** The software shall remain in Safety mode until the payload is either retracted correctly, retracted fully with the arm in the open position, or ejected safely from the rocket. Safety mode shall first try to correctly retract the arm, then retract with the arm open, then repeat attempting ejection until the payload is ejected.

2.6 Target Success Sensors

2.6.1 Requirement Overview

The software shall know whether or not the arm succeeded in touching the targets generated, as described in section 2.1. The sensors shall report back whether or not contact was made. This data can be used in post-mortem analysis to determine whether certain targets were faulty or whether the range of motion on the arm was faulty.

2.6.2 Solution Design

2.7 Telemetry

2.7.1 Requirement Overview

The software shall report via telemetry all sensor data.

The criteria that these technologies will be evaluated on is:

- **Ease of use.** The chosen solution should let the developers focus on writing code and not encoding data for telemetry transmission. Ideally, sending data through one of the telemetry ports should be no more than one line of code.
- **Reliability.** The chosen solution should be able to relay 100% of transmitted data to the ground station without corrupting or losing any of it.
- **Documentation.** The chosen solution should be well documented. The developers should be able to quickly and easily locate supporting documentation for using the technology.
- **Compatibility.** The chosen solution should be compatible with the software and hardware of the payload.

2.7.2 Solution Design

A custom-built solution for our own needs. The custom-built solution is the least appealing. It would require the most amount of work to develop and maintain by the developers. The advantage of a custom-built solution is that it can be tailored to the requirements of our system, making it extremely to use. However, the benefit is offset by the huge amount of work upfront it would require to develop and test the solution. Since the developers would be coding up this solution themselves, it would require a lot of testing to ensure a reliable solution. The hand-written test cases cannot

guarantee the reliability of the solution, especially given the relative inexperience of the developers with writing code for this platform. Therefore one can expect to have relatively unreliable code and encounter lots of bugs. Compatibility would not be a problem with this solution because the code would be custom-made for the hardware. However, documentation would be non-existent because the developers would be writing the code themselves. The only documentation that would be relevant would be from other projects that have written telemetry code for spacecraft. However, most of that documentation would be internal to the organizations building the spacecraft, most likely wouldn't be helpful.

2.8 Video Handling

2.8.1 Requirement Overview

The software shall be responsible for controlling the camera output.

The criteria that these technologies will be evaluated on is:

- **Reliability.** The solution should guarantee that video footage is permanently recorded.
- **Ease of use.** The solution should be easy to implement and use.

2.8.2 Solution Design

Enabling and disabling a third-party camera. This solution involves turning on and off a self-contained third-party camera. Defining what the camera will be is outside of the scope of the Hephaestus software team. The camera used will be decided by the Hephaestus electrical and robotics teams based on their design requirements. Currently, a GoPro is the most likely to be used for the camera. Self-contained shall be defined as a product that can start, stop, and store video footage without any outside input. The software shall enable video recording at the beginning of the demonstration, and stop video recording at the end.

2.9 Data Visualization and Processing

2.9.1 Requirement Overview

After the mission completes, the software shall provide visualizations for the collected data. The software shall be able to show whether the mission success criteria have been met or not. If the mission success criteria have not been met, the software shall show how and why they have not been met.

The criteria that these technologies will be evaluated on is:

- **Cross-platform compatibility.** The chosen solution should be able to run across any of the major computing platforms.
- **Range and variety of visualization methods.** The chosen solution should have a large variety of different visualization methods.
- **Documentation.** The chosen solution should be well documented. The developers should be able to quickly and easily locate supporting documentation for using the technology.

- **Developer proficiency.** The majority of developers should be able to comfortably develop the visualizations without needing to learn any new technologies.

2.9.2 Solution Design

Matplotlib. Matplotlib is a Python plotting and graphing library. Matplotlib is written in Python, and will therefore run on all platforms that Python supports. Matplotlib supports both 2d and 3d graphics, and can render dozens of different types of graphs. Since Matplotlib is used and supported by thousands of developers, there is ample documentation for all aspects of the library. All core developers for the Hephaestus mission are familiar with Python.

3 Conclusion

4 Glossary

5 Appendix

5.1 Mission Patch

Figure 2: Mission Logo [1]

5.2 Project Overview

The Hephaestus project is a Capstone Senior Design project for Oregon State University's 2016/2017 Senior Design class (CS461-CS463). The CS senior design project is one part of the overall Hephaestus project. In addition to the CS team, there is one team of Electrical Engineers and two teams of Mechanical Engineers working on this project through other senior design classes. The Hephaestus payload is a rocketry payload developed as part of the 2016/2017 RockSat-X program. The RockSat-X program is a year long program where groups of students develop rocketry payloads with

the help of the Colorado Space Grant Consortium and Wallops Flight Facility. The term "rocketry payload" refers to an experiment inside a section of the rocket. Each section of the rocket is called a can, and is a standard space that we can fill with an experiment. The Hephaestus payload shall take up half a can and shall be mounted on a standard base plate provided by Wallops. We, as the Hephaestus team, will create the hardware and software for the payload, then integrate it into the rocket before launch.

5.2.1 Project Phases

The project shall include several phases. The first is the design phase. The design phase shall last all of Fall 2016 term at OSU. In the design phase, we shall design the robotics, electronics, materials, and software. The design phase shall include presentations to the RockSat-X program, where there will review our designs. Following the design phase will be the implementation phase. In the implementation phase we shall last through June 2017. This phase shall include testing of the payload. We will perform testing both at OSU and at Wallops. At OSU we will be testing the payload functionality. At Wallops, we will be testing the structural integrity of the payload, as well as its resistance to vibrations, heat, and cold. Following the implementation phase will be the integration phase. This phase will occur at Wallops in July. This is the point at which our base plate will be integrated into the rocket as a whole, along with the other participating teams. The final phase will be launch. Launch will occur in Summer of 2017. The rocket shall be launched from Wallops Flight Facility. During the flight we shall send telemetry to the ground station at Wallops. The payload shall perform the experiment once it reaches appogee. The payload will hopefully be recovered post-flight.

5.3 Software State Diagram

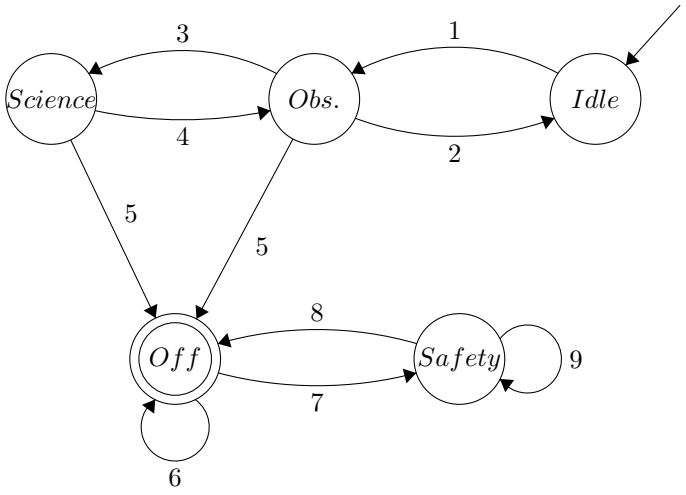

Figure 3 – Diagram of software states of operation and transition between states [2].

Transitions between states occur as numbered:

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5.4 References

[1] Oregon State University RockSat-X Team, "Hephaestus Mission Patch," 2016. [Online]. Accessed: June 14, 2016.

[2] H. Bales and M. Humphrey, "Diagram of Software Modes of Operation," 2016. [Online]. Available: Hephaestus Requirements Document.