

## S24W8: Updates:

- PY4 Local Ridge Tests Semi-Successful
  - Gascola site access and network issues
  - On-campus ridge test successful
  - No successful satellite comms yet



## Milestones:

This week

- Ensure PY4 GS is operational and has an internet connection.

Next week

- Ridgetest #2
- Satellite Antenna Finalized

## Possible Blockers:

- RF scope / probe / attenuator ?
- Internet restored at Gascola

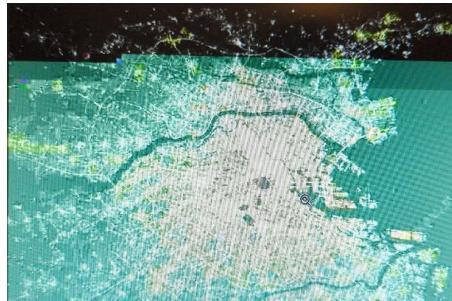


## Cross Team Info:

- Flight software
- Avionics: Z+ PCB?  
Battery Boards working?

## S24W7: Updates:

- Ridgetest #0.5  
433MHz 😊  
915MHz 😞



## Possible Blockers:

- RF scope / probe / attenuator ?
- Ground Station 915MHz noise ?

## Milestones:

This week

- Ridgetest #1
- Ground station hardware complete ?
- PY4 Mission Ready ?

Next week

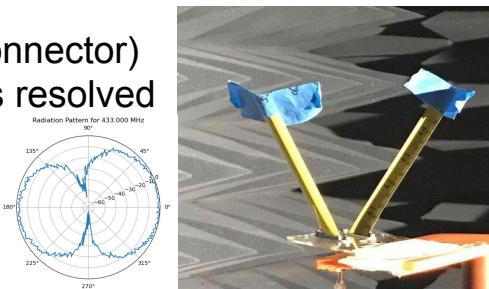
- Spring Break

## Cross Team Info:

- Flight software
- Avionics: Z+ PCB?  
Battery Boards working?

## S24W6: Updates:

- New GS PiHat board: assembled, working
- Bench Test #3:  
Py<sup>3</sup> + sat antenna ↔ eggbeater + PiHat + Pi
- Update to +z PCB  
(balun, ant mount, connector)
- Gascola wiring issues resolved
- Autoencoder update
- Antenna patterning



## Possible Blockers:

- RF scope / probe / attenuator (?)

## Milestones:

This week

- Continue developing/testing GS and Sat software
- Prepare GS Rpi with Py4 SW

Next week

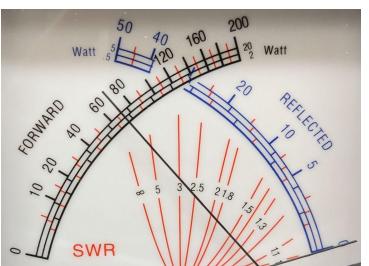
- Ground station hardware complete?
- Ridgetest #1 (1 week early)?
- Ready for Py4?

## Cross Team Info:

- Flight software

## S24W5: Updates:

- Wiring at ground station done (-ish)
- GS software robustness; handles communication interruptions and uploads data to external server.
- TX power testing



## Possible Blockers:

- RF scope / probe / attenuator (?)

## Milestones:

This week

- Continue developing/testing GS software
- Assemble new GS boards
- Load PY4 on GS Raspberry Pi
- TX power testing

Next week

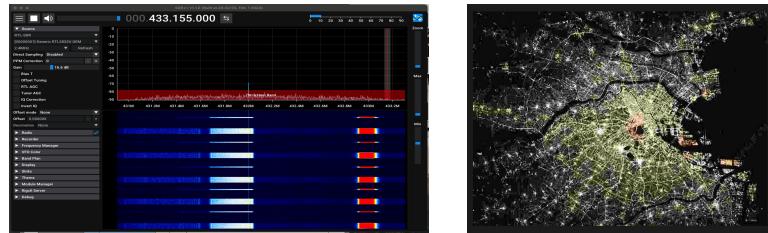
- Benchtop test with new GS boards, real antennas
- State machine implemented
- Autoencoder finalized

## Cross Team Info:

- Avionics & GNC: Meet to finalize messages and signal definitions, discuss FSW implementation

## S24W4: Updates:

- Wiring at ground station (WIP)
- Review of Comms Spec
- Updates to Avionics PyCubed board
- Implemented basic 2-way RF comms
- TX and RX 20KB image @ 148 feet



## Milestones:

This week

- Continue developing/testing GS state machine
- Implement+document feedback from spec review
- Assemble new GS boards

Next week

- Benchtop tests using new GS boards
- State machine implemented
- Autoencoder finalized

## Possible Blockers:

- RF scope /probe ?

## Cross Team Info:

- Avionics & GNC: Meet to finalize messages and signal definitions, discuss FSW implementation
- Mechanical: Ant antenna mount refinement

## S24W3: Updates:

- First Communications Specification ready for review
- Ground station PCB ordered
- Ground station HW ordered



Argus-1 Communications Specification  
Spacecraft Design-Build-Fly Lab  
Fall 2023 - Spring 2024  
Carnegie Mellon University  
5000 Forbes Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Release	Release Notes	Author	Release Date
v0.1	Initial Specification	David J. Moray	Jan. 23, 2024

## Milestones:

### This week

- Comms Specification review
  - document will be on GitHub
- Comms protocol implementation
- Ground station site wiring
- Antenna prototype #2

### Next week

- Benchtop tests #1 & #2

## Possible Blockers:

- RF oscilloscope ?

## Cross Team Info:

- All teams:  
Feedback on Communications Specifications.
  - Please let us know what information you would like to send and receive!
- Mechanical: Antenna prototype #2
- Avionics: Radio power path review

## S24W2: Updates:

- Comms Team all have FCC licenses
- KC3YHI (Jacky), KC3YCQ (Akshat)
  - KE8ZJK (D.J.) - Tech→General



→ Ground station  
wiring started

## Possible Blockers:

- Ground station PCB order → 2+ month delay
- Remaining ground station HW order ?

## Goals for this Week:

- Order remaining ground station components
- Finalize telemetry data and formatting
- Finalize and document packet structure, layout, and synchronization

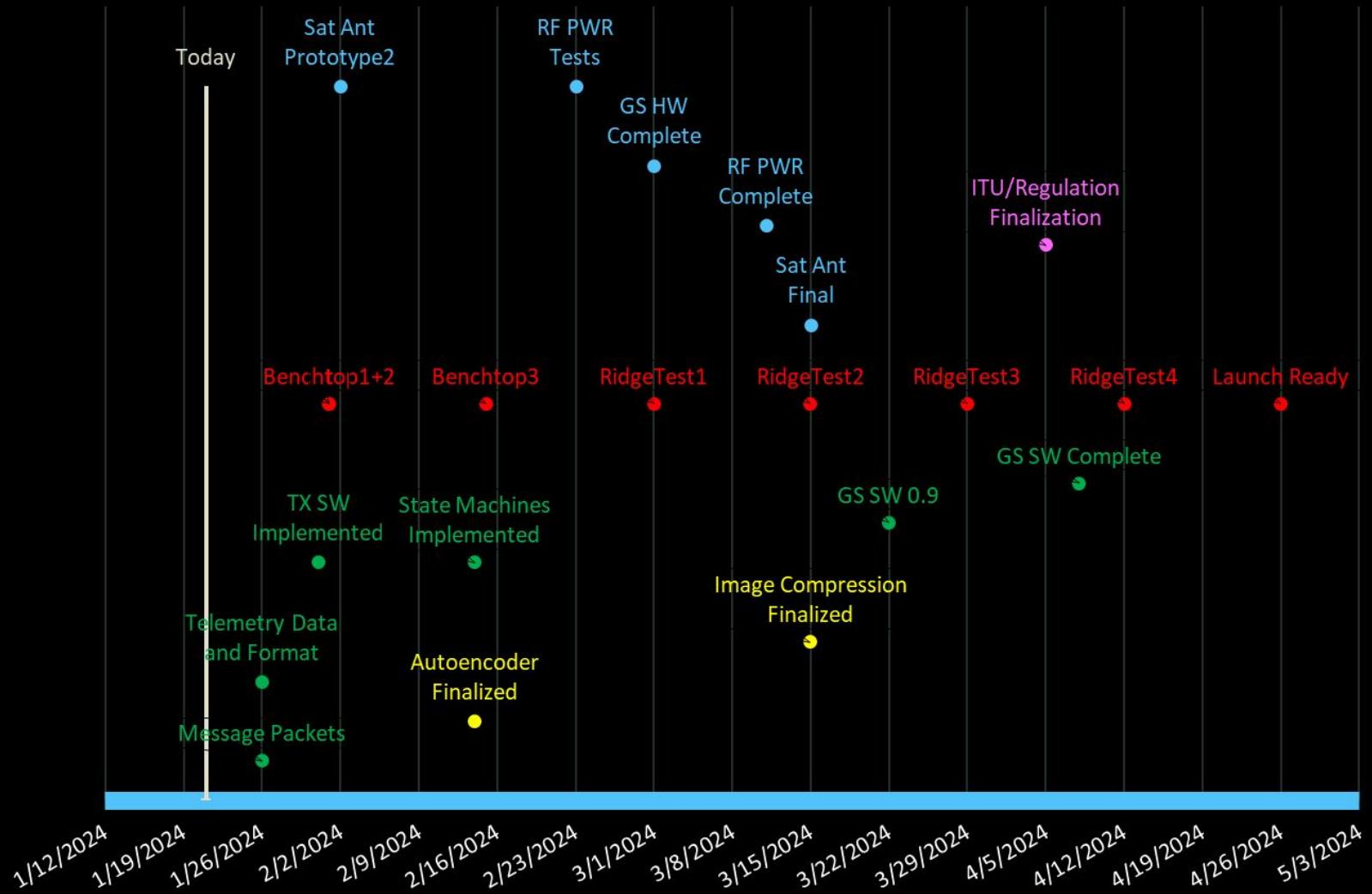
## Milestones:

### Fall 2023 Recap

- Ground station antennas and amplifiers mounted.
- PiHat PCB finalized
- TX and RX Link Budget v1.0
- Defined a generic communications protocol and state machine
- Transferred generic information and text file from board to board. Programmed all in C

## Cross Team Info:

- Vision: Autoencoder for image compression
- Avionics: Power path to RF amplifier
- Mechanical: Rev. 2.0 of prototype antenna



## W11: Updates:

- Image transmission between Pis (likely 1kb/s, 62.5 KHz)

Lossless  
40 min



640x480 image,  
95% JPEG  
compression  
1 min @ 915 MHz,  
125 kHz BW, SF 7



97% JPEG  
compression  
30 sec



## Possible Blockers:

- Ground station antenna mount is taking longer than desired.
- Bitrates/BWs for past missions with RFM98.
- Risk: RF power FET may only be rated for 20V. Currently running at 19.8V?

## Milestones:

### This week

- GS boards ready to order/ordered
- Porting GS software to work on Pi
- Image transmission between Pis
- Image compression format/level
- Reverse engineered RF module amplifier

### Next week

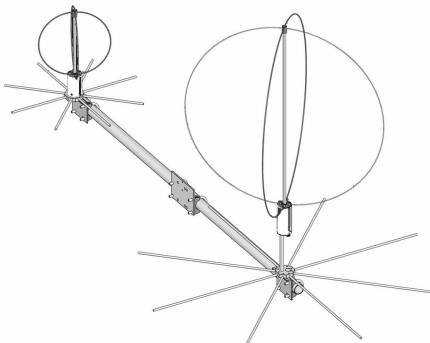
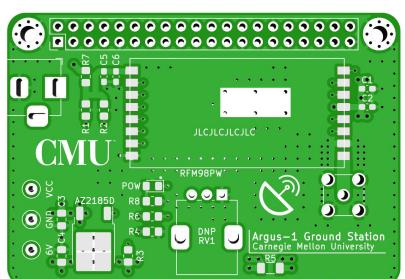
- Assemble GS boards

## Cross Team Info:

- GNC: Comms protocol / message scheduling
  - D.J. working on statechart
- Vision: Image compression / format

## W10: Updates:

- Board redesign finished, will order soon
  - Ordered a lot of GS hardware



## Possible Blockers:

- Ground station installation progress moving slower than we would like

## Milestones:

## This week

- Response from AMSAT
  - Porting GS software (Arduino to C for RPi)
  - Board redesign complete, order this week
  - Satellite antenna demo

## Next week

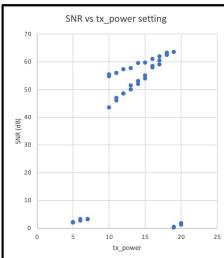
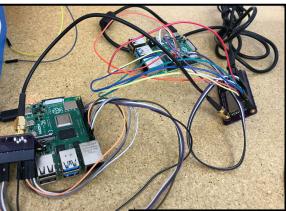
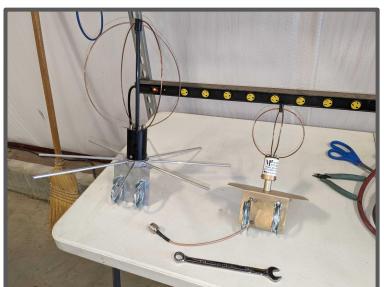
- GS software testing
  - Continue GS software development (Mature protocols and send large packets, i.e. images)

## Cross Team Info:

- GNC: Comms protocol / message scheduling
  - Mech: Sat antenna mount
  - Avionics & Mechanical: GPS antenna mount

## W9: Updates:

- Antennas assembled (not mounted)
- LoRa communication between two ground stations



```
From: 2
Received: b'Hello there!'
RSSI: -122.87; SNR: 59.0
From: 2
Received: b'D.J. said hello!'
RSSI: -121.8; SNR: 57.0
```

## Possible Blockers:

- Permission to drill holes in building
- Anechoic chamber

## Milestones:

### This week

- Antennas assembled
- GS equipment at Gascola site
- GS board redesign
- Module to module RF comms
- More communication with AMSAT person

### Next week

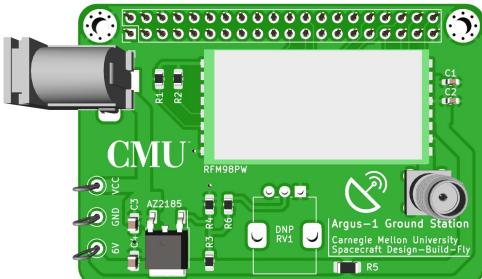
- Order new GS board
- Satellite antenna demo + testing

## Cross Team Info:

- Mechanical:  
Satellite antenna v0

## W8: Updates:

- GS board redesign
- 1 more HAM licensee - Congrats DJ!



## Possible Blockers:

- Labspace access needed for antenna prototypes and equipment migration
- Ground Station antenna mount

## Milestones:

### This week

- Link Budget v0.5 (lives in wiki)
- GS antenna - eggbeater
- Will move GS hardware into RES lab
- Got response from AMSAT
- Reverse engineering HopeRF module

### Next week

- Order new GS boards
- Prototype satellite antenna (V-dipole)

## Cross Team Info:

- Avionics:
  - Progress on FPrime?
  - Power path from battery to radio?

## W7: Updates:

- Tested GS boards, works but needs redesign
- 1 more HAM licensee - Congrats Neil !
- Ground station inventory



## Possible Blockers:

- Labspace access needed for antenna prototypes and equipment migration
- Eagerly awaiting link-budget class
- Expectations for design review?

## Milestones:

### This week

- Link budget v0.3
- Comms Block Diagram v0.1
- GS board bringup

### Next week

- Update on link budget
- Check on ground station facilities progress
- GS board redesign
- Data transmission between GS boards

## Cross Team Info:

- Mechanical: Continue development for sat antenna
- GNC: Comms protocol / message scheduling

## W6: Updates:

- Socket-based comms development environment in C
- Ground Station site visit.

Packet sent from cubesat!

```
Version number: 0
Packet type: 0
Secondary header flag: 0
APID: 110
Sequence flag: 3
Sequence count: 0
Data length: 200
```



## Possible Blockers:

- Pis for ground station development & benchtop module <> module communication

## Milestones:

### This week

- Developing packet protocol
- Developed initial packet transmission simulation
- Visited ground station site, planned antenna, mount

### Next week

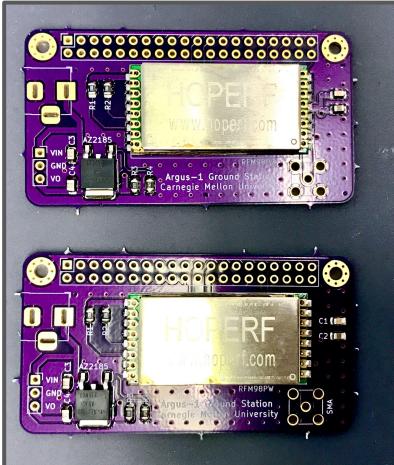
- Update on link budget
- Expanding digital packet transmission simulation with message payloads
- GS board bringup using a Pi

## Cross Team Info:

- Avionics: meeting on satellite RF software + using FPrime for it
- GNC: meeting to decide data to/from satellite, message scheduling
- Vision: image format & compression

## W5: Updates:

- Assembled 2 x Ground Station pHATs
- Link Budget v0.2
- SQL Command Database



## Milestones:

### This week

- Ground station pHAT assembly
- Link budget v0.2

### Next week

- Continue initial satellite <> ground station command database file
- Setup demonstration of satellite <> ground station communication (Digital only, packet passing)
- Assemble another ground station pHAT

## Possible Blockers:

- Access to 2 x Raspberry Pis (2, 3, 4, Zero) for initial LoRa communication

## Cross Team Info:

- Continue to send DJ command/telemetry variables (Vbat, sensor outputs)
- GNC: Attitude control & detumbling

## W4: Updates:

- Selected the CSDC Space Packet Protocol for the satellite <> ground station communication

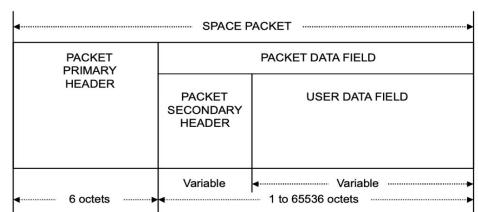
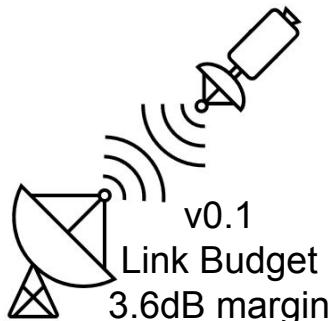


Fig. 1: SPP



## Possible Blockers:

- Access to lab / ground station inventory

## Milestones:

### This week

- Link Budget v0.1
- SPP + low level RF libraries
- Antenna trade study / analysis

### Next week

- Link Budget v0.2
- RF pHAT assembly, board bringup
- Pi-Pi RF communication

## Cross Team Info:

### Vision

- Image transmission format
- May need to transmit image in parts (dividing in 4 parts should transmit in 4 passes)
- Any data that teams will need to communicate from ground <> satellite, please share with D.J.
- Will develop database with message IDs and data field formatting.

## W3: Updates:

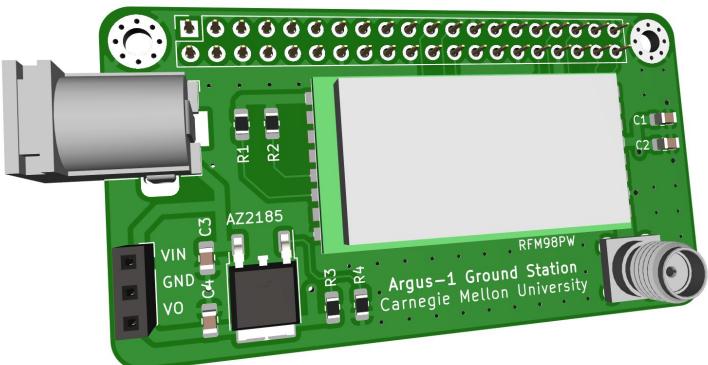


Fig. 1: Groundstation Pi pHAT

## Milestones:

- v1.0 ground station schematic and PCB
  - Subdivision of responsibilities for Comms team
  - v0.0 ground station GUI



Fig. 2: GS GUI

## Possible Blockers:

- LoRa use and licensing in U.S. ?
  - Experimental license ?
  - ISM bands ?

## Cross Team Info:

## Comms Team Point of Contacts

- RF Power Use: Jason
  - Antenna: Tim
  - RF Software: DJ

## Cross Team Interfaces/Dependencies

- Mechanical: Antenna
  - GNC: GS to sat information
  - Avionics: RF software + protocols

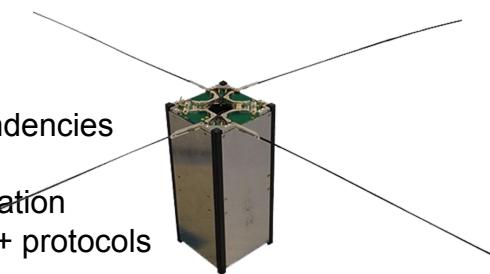


Fig. 3: Turnstile Antenna