

# THESIS

## DESIGN OF AN AUTONOMOUS DREDGE BOT CONTROLLER



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**THESES**  
**AUTONOMOUS CRAWLER DESIGN**  
**IHC MTI B.V.**

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This document is dated May 31, 2020

# CHAPTER SUMMARY

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# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter will first specify three use-cases, specified in the project assignment, in which an AOD must operate. It then describes basic principles, applications and tools relevant for these use cases.

## 1.1 USE CASES

The use case below are determined by ir. F. Hofstra, these cases are expected to be valid and realistic. Keeping in mind their marketability. These cases will determine the needed functionality for an AOD and stand at the basis for the controller design.

### 1.1.1 ARBITRARY SHAPED SPACE

An AOD is placed in a predefined arbitrary shaped space, not too complex, with an area of  $3500\text{m}^2$ . The shape of this space is set, but the movement pattern is unrestricted. The AOD has to remove a layer with a depth of 5cm. The controller has to determine an optimal path with the least amount of time or the shortest path. This can be coupled with learning capabilities and an analyze capacity. At a later time additional constrains can be added which keep in mind the deployment location of a flexible dredgeline and an umbilical.

### 1.1.2 MARINA AQUA DELTA

The AOD operates in a predefined space with obstacles, not every obstacles is known. The actual location is marina Aqua Delta located in Bruinisse, the Netherlands. The shape of this location is set but the movement pattern is unrestricted. An AOD has to remove a layer with a depth of 5cm. The controller has to determine an optimal path with the least amount of time or the shortest path. This can be coupled with learning capabilities and an analyze capacity. The marina has enough depth for the AOD to move underneath the scaffolding. No consideration has to be made for a flexible dredgeline and a umbilical. These conditions are introduced at a later stage.

### 1.1.3 THREE GORGES DAM

An AOD operates in a predefined space with obstacles, not every location of those obstacles is known. The predefined space is located at the foot of three Gorges dam. Silt is deposited at the foot of this dam, due to natural occurring erosion and sedimentation. The accumulation of silt can be controlled by dredging localized pits. Which in turn create locations with a lower density. This induces a gravity driven density current towards those locations. The AOD has to maintain an average nominal depth with a certain silt deposit rate.

## 1.2 ARCHIMEDES DRIVEN CRAWLER

# **2 CHAPTER DREDGING PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS**

This chapter describes the dredging task in some detail. Readers familiar with dredging and commonly used terminology can skip this chapter, since no new information will be provided. It first describes basic principles, applications and tools applicable by the used machinery for the use-cases.

## **2.1 BASIC DREDGING APPLICATION**

Training Institute for Dredging [40] defines dredging as the underwater removal of soil and its transport from one place to another for the purpose of deepening or making profitable use of the removed soil. They make a distinction between nine types of operations: dredging for prosperity, dredging in ports and channels, exploitation of agricultural resources, mineral dredging, coastal protection, land reclamation, infrastructural projects, improvement of the environment and trenches for cables and pipelines.

All three described use-cases are of the maintenance type. Schriek [69] states that, in order to maintain existing waterways and harbours, the depth of the bed must be preserved by regularly removing silt. In canals and ports basins, where currents are low, the sediment is mostly fine-grained silt and sludge. Where currents are stronger, as in access channels in tidal zones, or rivers, the sediment is sand. He further describes that a characteristic of this kind of work is the weak cohesion of the soil to be removed, since it consists of recently deposited sediment and no significant consolidation has taken place yet.

Sanitation dredging is a distinct form of maintenance dredging and is a process that has been specifically designed for contaminated sediment. Just in the way sediment settles in rivers, harbours and deltas so does heavy metal, inorganic and aromatic compounds, especially downstream of industrial areas. When these contaminated sediments become a risk towards public health and environment, they need to be removed with care and precision.

## **2.2 COMMONLY USED VESSELS AND EQUIPMENT**

Common dredge tools used during maintenance work are listed below. Out of this list, backhoes and suction dredgers are mostly used during port maintenance. Vlasblom [78] states that dredgers can be divided into two categories: mechanical dredgers and hydraulic dredgers. The difference lies in the way the soil is excavated; either mechanically or hydraulically.

### **2.2.1 MECHANICAL DREDGERS**

They work by removing soil and sediment from the submerged soil bed by mechanically excavating it and transporting it to a storage location, such as a hopper. The various types of mechanical dredgers won't be described in this section, since the crawler used in our use-cases will be of a hydraulic type.

### **2.2.2 HYDRAULIC DREDGERS**

These types of dredgers work by removing and transporting soil from the seabed. They use a hydraulic system, where the necessary work needed for mass transportation is delivered by a pump. The soil is transported as a slurry which is a mixture that consists of both solid and fluid phases, and this is usually stored in a dedicated place such as a hopper.

#### **PLAIN SUCTION DREDGERS**

Vlasblom [78] describes a plain suction dredger as a stationary dredger, consisting of a pontoon anchored by one or more wires and with at least one sand pump that is connected to a suction pipe. The discharge of the dredged material can take place via a pipeline or via a barge-loading installation. During sand dredging, the dredger is moved slowly forwards by a set of winches.

### TRAILING SUCTION HOPPER DREDGERS

The Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger (TSHD) is a seagoing ship equipped with one or two suction tubes, a pump installation and a hopper with multiple bottom doors and one or more overflows. A draghead is attached to each suction tube and is trailed across the sea bed to loosen the soil before it is pumped up [69]. This soil is stored in a hopper which is periodically discharged, at a designated location, through dumping or pumping out.

### AUGER SUCTION DREDGERS

According to VBKO Vereniging van waterbouwers in bagger-, kust- en oeverwerken [11] an Auger Suction Dredger (ASD) consists of a double symmetrical Archimedes screw, also called an auger, surrounded with a steel protective cover and a flexible rubber curtain. This auger is lowered, on a rigid arm, and positioned on the soil bed. Here, it cuts the material and actively transports it into the centre where it is sucked away by a dredge pump. Because the complete dredging process takes place behind a flexible rubber curtain and the auger guides all material towards the suction mouth, this type of dredger is well suited for sanitation maintenance.



FIGURE 2.1: AUGER SUCTION DREDGER [11]

## CUTTER SUCTION DREDGERS

According to Vlasblom [78] a Cutter Suction Dredger (CSD) is a stationary dredger equipped with a cutter device (cutter head) which excavates the soil before it is sucked up by the flow dredge-pump. During this operation, the dredger moves around a spud pole by pulling and slackening on the two fore sideline wires. This type of dredger is accurate and can cut almost all types of sediment.

## 2.3 HYDRAULIC DREDGING PRINCIPALS

According to Van Den Berg [64] hydraulic systems are the de-facto industry of transportation for dredged sedimented or slurry; hydraulic systems consist of pipes, either flexible or rigid, combined with centrifugal pumps, a suction mouth and a discharge unit. The pump adds energy to a slurry, suchs that a required flowrate can be achieved, this energy is needed to overcome a system specific pressure drop. Which is the result of energy losses due to potential height differences, kinematic behaviour of the fluid and friction, both from shearing of a fluid along a wall and internal shearing of the fluid itself.

The section below briefly describes the workings of two main components in this hydraulic system, namely a dredge-pump and a draghead.

### NOTE 2.1: OUT-OFF SCOPE

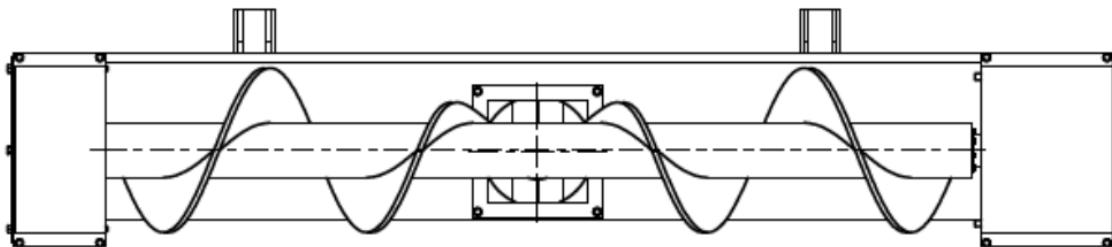
Two of the use-cases mention that additional constraints such as a flexible dredge line to shore, can be added to the assignment. It was however opted, to not applied these additional constraints, due to a time constraint on the assignment as a whole.

### 2.3.1 DREDGE PUMP

In order to transport slurry with a particular density and velocity through a pipeline, a pressure, equal to the sum of all the resistances and geodetic head must be generated. A pump supplies this pressure [64]. Assuming a steady flow, the pump basically increases the Bernoulli head of the flow between point 1, the eye, and point 2, the exit [53].

### 2.3.2 AUGER DREDGE HEAD

An auger dredge head excavate soil by employing a Archimedes screw transportation principle. This method ensures an extremely quiet cutting and mixing process with little spillage and turbidity in the surroundings. The large working width of the auger makes it extremely suited to dredge thin, possibly polluted, layers at a relatively high production rate [69].



**FIGURE 2.2: SCHEMATIC DRAWING OF AN AUGER DREDGE HEAD [83]**

The auger is in effect a screw conveyor which guides the material towards the suction head. Green and Perry [34] states that the screw conveyor is one of the oldest and most versatile conveyor types there is. It consists of a helicoid flight mounted on a pipe which turns in a trough. Screw conveyors are well standardized, using International Standard ISO [4] empirical gathered factor values for filling rates and progress resistance.

### NOTE 2.2: ASSUMPTION

The assumption is made that the hydraulic system, consisting of flexible pipes and a pump, is the limiting factor in the mass flow, and that the auger simply delivers what is needed.

# **3 CHAPTER RESEARCH**

A crawler performs its tasks in an underwater environment. Its task consists of moving, mapping and dredging a certain basin or area. In order to fulfill tasks its own accord, it has to be able to sense its surrounding environment and execute its task using a strategy. Which ensures performance according to specification.

In the next sections the key philosophies and processes are investigated; All of these are needed to fulfill its objective. Firstly, in Section 4.3.1, different ways of underwater communication are reviewed. This is after all the interface between man and machine. A second review regarding useful sensors made in Section ??, their workings and possible applications are described.

Once the low-level tools, such as communication devices and sensors are discussed. A careful study is made into possible implementation and fusion of these sensors. Such that they can be used to estimate a location of a crawler. Which needs to operate in a Global Positioning System (GPS) deprived environment.

Section ?? describes the use of cooperative localization techniques and Kalman-filter which, is an algorithm that uses a series of measurements observed over time, containing statistical noise and other inaccuracies, and produces estimates of unknown variables that tend to be more precise than those based on a single measurement alone.

Lastly an survey is made for useful strategy at a higher abstraction level. Section ??, describes how a crawler could best perform its main task: covering and dredging a large basin, uniformly. These so called Coverage Path Planning (CPP) algorithms, describe and propose different strategies that allow a crawler to perform its task in an unknown and changing environment.

## **3.1 UNDERWATER COMMUNICATION**

This section describes various principles of underwater communication. It identifies two basic methods of transmitting data, namely: wired communication or wireless communication. Wired communication will be in a form of an umbilical which, is a electronic cable connecting an underwater vehicle,. Using regular and industry standard communication protocols. While wireless communication can be performed through four basic principles. These are: electromagnetic, electric current, acoustic or optical signals. Of these principles only electromagnetic and acoustic are explored, since an electrical current doesn't work in a fresh water reservoir and optical signals get sub-optimal performance in a dredging environment. Due the diffraction and scattering of light by floating floating sand particles.

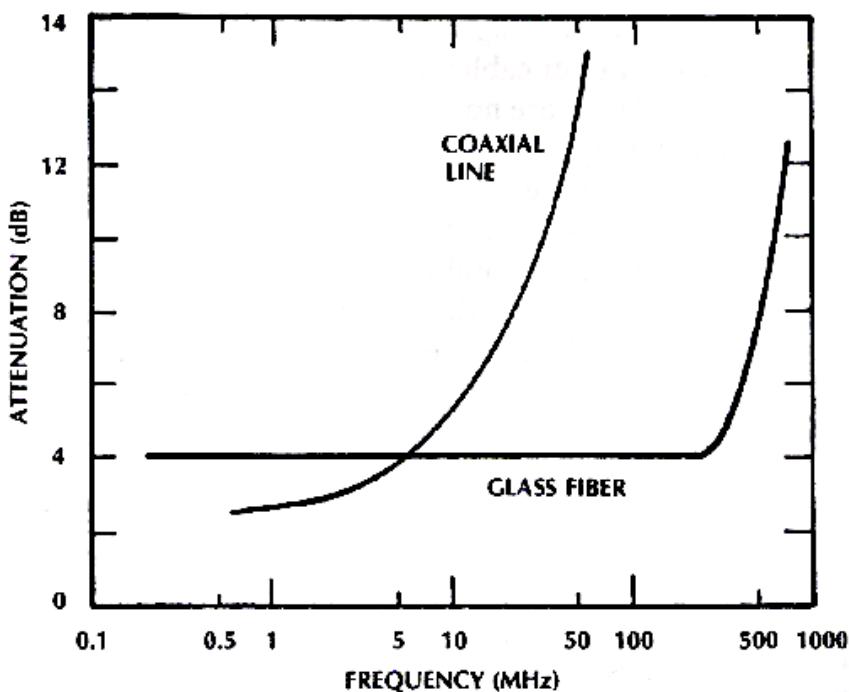
The environment presented in the uses cases, described in section 1.1, state that the crawler will operate in fresh water basins. It is also likely that it will be connected to the water surface with a floating dredgeline. The choice for wired communication is therefore easily made. There may however still be a need for wireless communication with external sensors. Such as the principles presented in section ?? illustrate. Where an option to minimize a localization error using multiple bots, is presented.

### **3.1.1 WIRED COMMUNICATION**

With wired communication, data signals are transmitted over a wire. Which acts as a pathway where the information is transmitted as a digital bitstream which, is a sequential binary sequence,. Transmission of information through this wire is limited by a certain bandwidth in Hz. Where the limiting factors are material properties such as: conductivity, permittivity and permeability. As well as processing of the signals at the end and start node. Communication wires are made of a carrier medium, such as copper or glass fibre. This carrier medium facilitate transmission of electromagnetic waves or currents. Where electromagnetic waves, such as light, are transmitted through fibre optic cables, where a modulated pulse of light propagates through a glass tube through the principle of Total Internal Reflection (TIR). Where electromagnetic communication makes use of copper wires, where an electric charge propagates through the cable. Copper is the industry de-facto due to its excellent electrical conductivity properties.

Babani, Bature, Faruk, et al. [76] made a comparative study between fibre-optic and copper cables in a context of modern network protocol. They identified the following properties for comparison:

bandwidth, cost, dimensional properties (such as weight, size and flexibility), signal loss and safety and immunity. They illustrate that fibre optics cables, although more expensive, are the better choice. By stating that fibre-optic cables are smaller and lighter compare to metal cables, especially copper based. Optical fibre occupies less space in conduits than copper cabling and weighs less too. Furthermore, they allow for tighter bend radius than any copper cables. And signals don't cross-talk with different wires. The low signal attenuation performance and superior signal integrity found in fibre optical systems facilitates much longer runs for signal transmission. The attenuation loss experienced in fibre optic cables can be attributed to microscopic and macroscopic impurities in the fibre material and structure, which cause absorption and scattering of light signal. In figure ?? the attenuation loss of 1km of cable is shown as a function of frequency. Both signals propagate with nearly the same speed through their corresponding wire, but when a high data throughput is wanted. It becomes evident from this figure that usage of fibre-optics are paramount.



**FIGURE 3.1: EFFECTIVE ATTENUATION FIBRE VS COPPER CABLE 1 km [9]**

Other important factors to consider, for an underwater wired-communication between a base station and a dredge bot, are the effects of the wire on the bot itself. Whitcomb [16] states that most present day vehicles are Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) – tele-operated vehicles employing an umbilical cable to carry both power and telemetry from a mother-ship to the vehicle. He further states that a growing number of research vehicles are Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) – which operate without an umbilical tether. This statement is supported by Valavanis, Gracanin, Matijasevic, et al. [7], whom describes that the ROV umbilical cable constrains the vehicle to operations in close proximity to the support ship. Because the crawler is tethered to a location above water level, due to its floating dredgeline, and because this crawler is from its starting-point constructed as a ROV, it will, in all likelihood, be controlled through an umbilical.

Westneat, Blidberg, and Corell [5] describes that, as the range of operations becomes longer and water deeper, the drag exerted by the tether becomes significant. The thrusters, and thus the vehicle itself, must become larger and the cable thicker, and the energy that goes into the cable maintenance becomes a major factor. This factor is illustrated by Fang, Hou, and Luo [33], whom describes a mathematical model which allow the state representation of the dredge bot, as described in section 4.4.1, to be modified by the forces that are exerted on the cable. In these equations, mass and inertia of the cable play an important role. Because these are just a fraction of the properties for a dredgeline, it is assumed that these forces can be neglected. According to Feng and Allen [24] the effects of the cable can be reduced when it is deployed by a drum on the shore with negligible tension when it is pulled by the vehicle.

## PROTOCOLS

The signals which are transported through the wires need to adhere to certain rules and conventions. In other words, the transponder and receiver need to speak the same language and be aware of etiquette, such that a message is received as intended. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), have dictated most of the widespread used norms today. The most common used norm in wired communication is *IEEE 802.3* or as it is more commonly known Ethernet. Which consists of a multitude of protocols. In this IEEE norms are the physical layer, data link layers and the Media Access Control (MAC) for each protocol defined.

Shortly put, MAC is defined as the lower sub layer of the data link layer and provides addressing and channel access control mechanisms that allow for communication between several terminals, or nodes, within a multiple access network. This layer act as an interface between the Logical Link Control (LLC) sub layer and the network's physical layer. Where the LLC makes it possible to let several network protocols coexist. According to Jolectra [77] the current dredge bot makes use of an *Allen Bradley ETHERNET/IP adapter* of type 1769-AENTR, which is allows the use Common Industrial Protocol (CIP), Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) and User Datagram Protocol (UDP). Where CIP is used by EtherNet/IP, and is a familiar and widely used protocol for controllers.

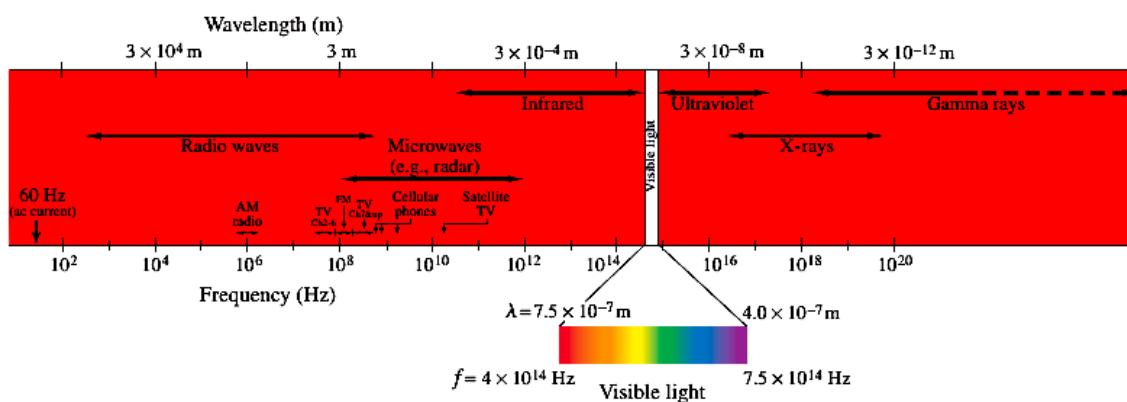
### 3.1.2 WIRELESS COMMUNICATION

Freitas [66] tells us that wireless communications have been subject to enormous research and improvements in the near past. This effort is responsible for allowing multiple devices to securely communicate simultaneously with high availability, great distances and high data rates. While these improvements are applied and tested mainly in over-the-air communications, underwater communications suffer from a low applicability of radio frequency transmission systems due to a low attenuation of Electromagnetic Waves (EMW) in water.

He [66] further states that When using radio frequency, underwater communications does not fully benefit from the improvements achieved in air since electromagnetic propagation in water causes a big reduction in the effective range. Because of the limitations that water imposes, these communications are currently performed using acoustic waves and in some cases optical systems. This is further supported by Lloret, Sendra, Ardid, *et al.* [56] who remarks that underwater communication research is primarily focused on the use of optical signals, electromagnetic signals and the propagation of acoustic and ultrasonic signals. Each technique has its own characteristics, with its benefits and drawbacks, mainly due to the chemical characteristics [47] and physical constraints of the medium [38].

## ELECTROMAGNETIC COMMUNICATION

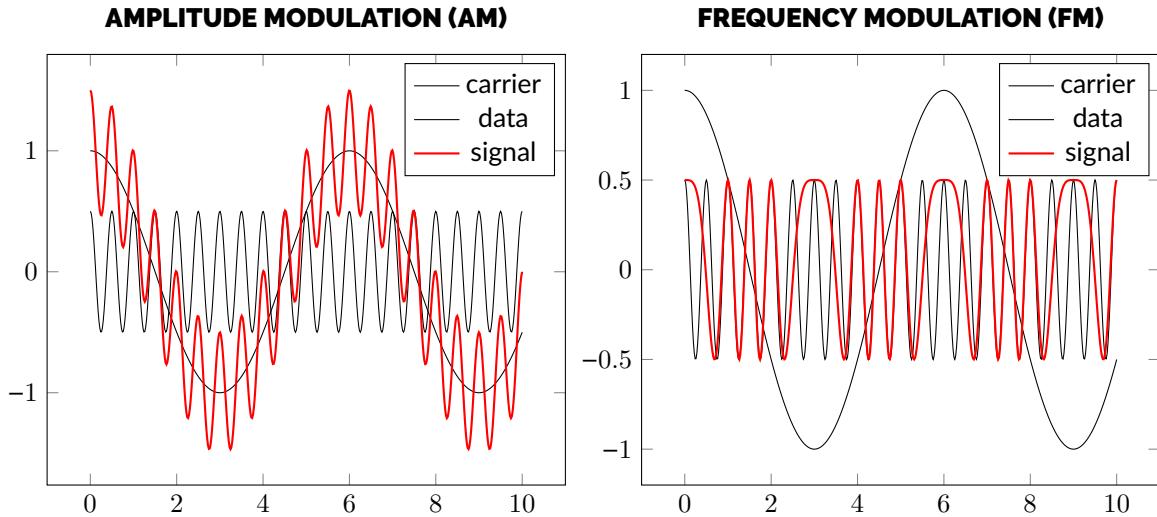
A common method to transfer data via a wireless connection is to make use of EMW, these are a type of electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum. As is shown in figure 3.2. Waves in this spectrum can have frequencies between 3kHz or 3GHz. These waves travel the speed of light and are transverse waves, because the amplitude is perpendicular to the direction of the wave travel. However, EMW are always waves of fields, not of matter, because they are fields, EMW can propagate in empty space [74].



**FIGURE 3.2: ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM [74]**

Data is transferred between devices by either modulating the frequency or the amplitude of a signal

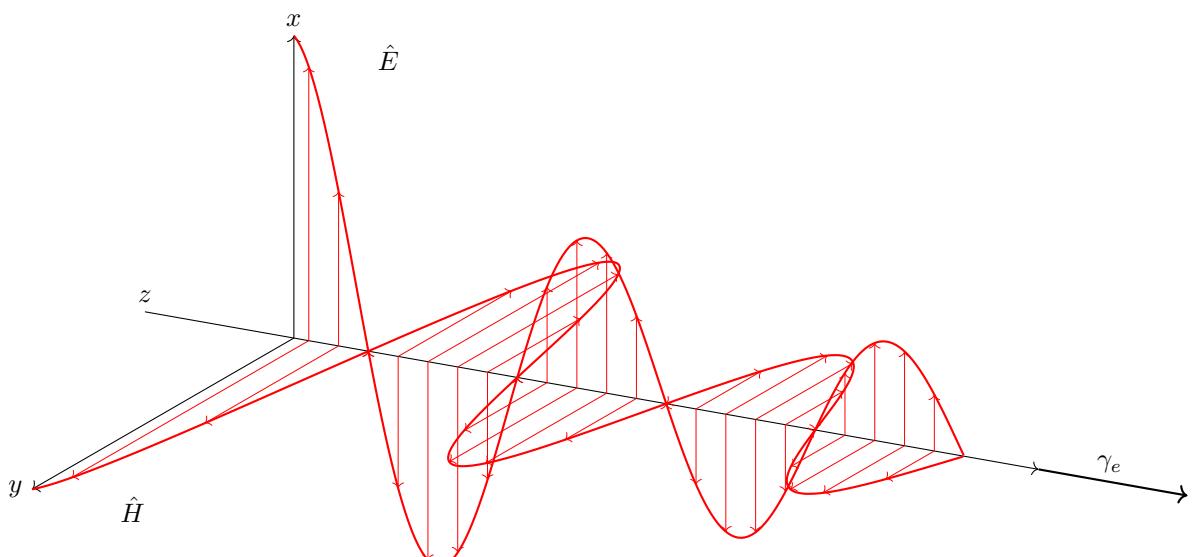
data can be transferred. Where a carrier frequency is modulated by superimposing a data signal. Which is illustrated in figure 3.3.



**FIGURE 3.3: SIGNAL MODULATION**

Hagman, Elias [42] tell us that the reasons, why EMW are used to transfer information in the classic wireless air channel, lies in their fast propagation speed. In their wide usable frequency spectrum and coupled with a small environment noise, compared for example with acoustics factors. This all leads high possible data rates. Furthermore, the EMW has the ability to propagate without a carrier medium and the electric-magnetic field conversion enables in general very large communication ranges.

But in water — especially in seawater — things get different. This statement is supported by Ramakrishna and Nissen [57] whom tells that the ocean is almost impervious to EMW, which makes them useless for wireless underwater communication over distances greater than a hundred meters. Hagman, Elias [42] illustrate this by solving Maxwell's equation to predict the propagation of EMW for the case of a linearly polarized plane travelling in  $z$ -direction, we get the electric field strength  $E_x$  and the magnetic field strength  $H_y$  [42].



**FIGURE 3.4: DAMPENING OF ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELD**

Where  $\hat{E}$  and  $\hat{H}$  are the amplitudes of the electric and the magnetic field wave and  $\gamma_e$  which is propagation constant given in [m] expressed in  $\epsilon_e$  which is permittivity given in [-], as shown in equation 3.3, where  $\mu_e$  which is electromagnetism permeability given in [H/m] and  $\sigma_e$  which is Electrical conductivity given in [S/m] of a material. Here  $\alpha_e$  which is attenuation given in [dB/m] and  $\beta$  which is phase factor of a wave given in [-].

$$E_x = \hat{E} e^{i\omega t - \gamma_e z} \quad (3.1)$$

$$H_y = \hat{H} e^{i\omega t - \gamma_e z} \quad (3.2)$$

$$\gamma_e = i\omega \sqrt{\epsilon_e \mu_e - \frac{i\sigma_e \mu_e}{\omega}} = \alpha + i\beta \quad (3.3)$$

$$\alpha_e \approx 0.0173 \sqrt{f \sigma_e} \quad (3.4)$$

As is evident from equation 3.1 and 3.2, there is a logarithmic relationship, maximization of the propagation  $\gamma_e$  leads to a lower amplitude of the electric and magnetic fields. This propagation is mostly determined by the attenuation  $\alpha_e$ , which varies at different frequencies and mediums. Claus [65] tells us that this attenuation factor is given as equation 3.4, which shows us that the attenuation is related to the square root of the frequency  $f$  in hertz Hz, multiplied by the conductivity of the water  $\sigma_e$  in S/m. Whilst Hattab, El-Tarhuni, Al-Ali, et al. [62] states that the loss of a signal travelling through water can be calculated using equation 3.5. They state that the knowing the real-part of  $\gamma_e$  is sufficient to calculate the loss for a given frequency. Since the only changing term due to frequency in the complex-valued  $\gamma_e$  is in its imaginary part, and due to the fact that each  $\gamma_e$  is multiplied with  $i$ , both outside of the root as inside, this value will be a constant throughout the frequency spectrum. And this attenuation model will not be used for our calculations.

Where  $\Delta d_{1,2}$  is the separation distance between transmitting and receiving nodes and only the real part of the propagation constant  $\sigma_e$  is used.

$$L_{\alpha,\epsilon} = \text{Re}(\gamma_e) = \frac{20}{\ln(10)} \Delta d_{1,2} \Rightarrow \Delta d_{1,2} \frac{L_{\alpha,\epsilon}}{\text{Re}(\gamma_e) \frac{20}{\ln(10)}} = \frac{L_{\alpha,\epsilon}}{\alpha_e} \quad (3.5)$$

The maximum penetration depth of signal in (sea) water, will, for simplicity's sake be calculated with equation 3.5, where  $\alpha_e$  is obtained using equation 3.4. Jiang and Georgakopoulos [48] tells us that seawater has a typically high conductivity of 4.0 S/m, whilst freshwater has a typically conductivity of only 0.0 S/m, 400.0 times less. He [48] further states that communication using electromagnetic waves in fresh water can be more efficient in fresh water. This statement is confirmed by Jiang and Georgakopoulos [48], Ainslie [45] and Bogie [3]. Figure 3.6 and 3.5, which shows the EMW propagation in fresh and seawater for commonly used frequencies, illustrate this phenomenon.

## PROTOCOLS

Sub-section 3.1.1 describes the need for protocols as a transceiver and receiver speaking the same language and adhering to the same etiquette. This holds true for wireless protocols as well. Most wireless protocols are described in the IEEE 802 standards. These are a family of standard network protocols. Describing networks using variable-size packets. These protocols are the de-facto industry standards. A short description for the most popular 802 standards are given below. These protocols map to two layers, namely: Data link and physical layers. Where the data link layer is split into two sub-layers LLC and MAC. Where the LLC provides the multiplexing mechanisms that enable the network protocols and provide flow control and automatic repeat requests. Whilst MAC provides addressing and channel access control mechanisms that make it possible for several nodes to communicate within a multiple access network.

### IEEE 802.11 WLAN

The IEEE 802.11 standard is also known as WiFi. It encompasses wireless modulation techniques, designates as 802.11(a, b, g, n and ac). The 802.11 standard makes use of the 2.4 GHz and 5.0 GHz bandwidth. Freitas [66] states that Wi-Fi frequencies maybe a challenge when used in underwater communications, because its attenuation drastically reduce the channel distance. As is shown in figure 3.5. A new standard 802.11af is being developed. This standard will make use of the 700.0 MHz [MHz] frequency. Which might give an extra couple of meters underwater.

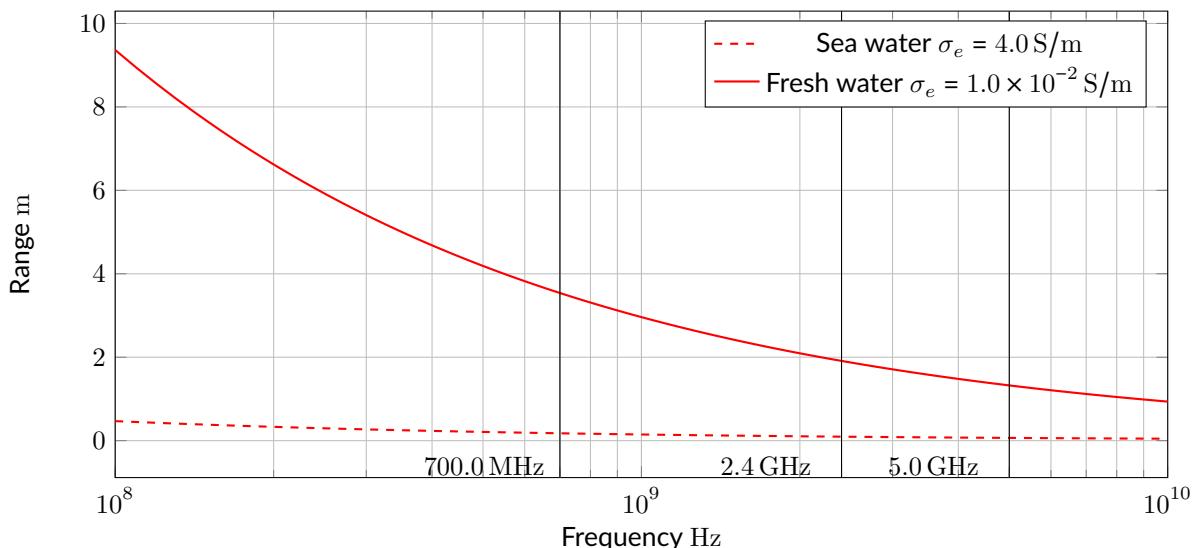


FIGURE 3.5: PROPAGATION RANGE OF WI-FI IN WATER.

### IEEE 802.15.4 LO-FI

From all different protocols described in the IEEE 802.15 special consideration is made into the IEEE 802.15.14 or LoRa. Which is an upcoming communication protocol for Internet of Things (IoT) devices. It operates in 433.0 MHz and (863.0 to 870.0) MHz. The protocols are opensource and the modules are very cheap. This protocol is developed for robust long range communication, which can reach 22.0 km on land. Akyildiz, Pompili, and Melodia [27] tells us that the electromagnetic waves at 433.0 MHz have been reported to have a transmission range of 120.0 cm in underwater environment. These experiments have been performed at the RESL at the University of Southern California.

Because of the use of lower frequencies, LoRa shows a three-fold increase in range compared with normal WiFi. The propagation of LoRa signal in (sea-)water is shown in figure 3.6. When this is compared with figure 3.5 in increase in range is found.

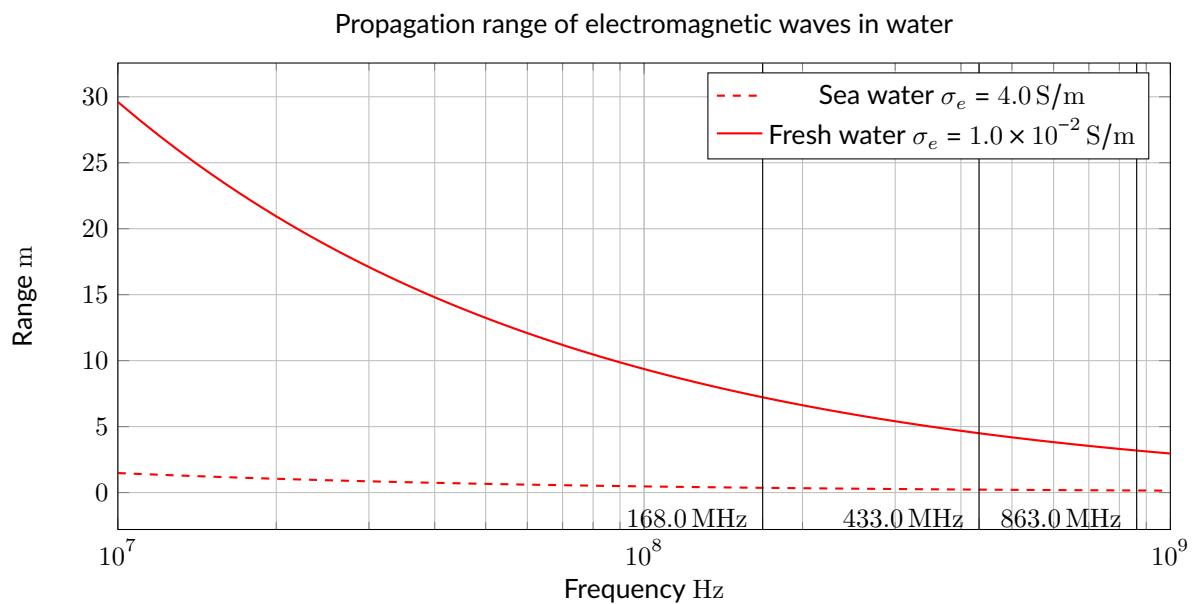


FIGURE 3.6: PROPAGATION RANGE OF LO-FI IN WATER

## ELECTRIC CURRENT

Another way to communicate is through the use of electric current. Hagman, Elias [42] describes that seawater, as a conductive medium, can be subject to a modulated signal generated by a pair of transmitting electrodes, that launch a current field in the channel. If this current field is strong enough, the receiver – that also uses a pair of electrodes – could measure a potential difference and therefore receive the signal. Since electric current noise is extremely low in seawater, small current fields amplitudes are sufficient to receive information and a large data rate is achievable [42]. Since this type of transmission only works in a conductive medium, and the use case only specify that a dredge bot will be deployed in fresh water basins, electric current communication is not deemed a viable candidate.

## ACOUSTIC COMMUNICATION

As is shown in section 3.1.2, EMW have a very limited range in (sea) water, due to a high attenuation. Multiple sources such as Hagman, Elias [42], Claus [65] and Domingo [54] state that acoustic communication is therefore the preferred way. This type of communication makes use of Sound Waves (SW), or Acoustic Waves (AW), which are often described as vibration of molecules of the medium in which it travels – that is, in terms of the motion or displacement of the molecules. SW can also be analysed from the point of view of pressure. Indeed, longitudinal waves are often called pressure waves. The pressure variation is usually easier to measure than the displacement [74]. This principle is used by hydrophones; These are in-effect microphones designed to be used underwater. Using piezo-electric transducers to convert pressure waves into electricity. Although acoustic communication is the preferred method, there are a lot of challenges to overcome. According to Tetley and Calcutt [36] transmitting and receiving acoustic energy in seawater is affected by the often unpredictable ocean environment. Lanbo, Shengli, and Jun-Hong [38] and Edward Tucholski [29] both state that the speed of sound in the sea is not constant, but a function of temperature, pressure and salinity  $v(T, P, S)$ . Because the speed is not constant sound does not travel in a straight line. Acoustic communication and can be summarized as follows:

PARAMETER	VALUE
Attenuation	A variable factor related to the transmitted power, the frequency of transmission, salinity of the seawater and the reflective consistency of the ocean floor.
Salinity of seawater	A variable factor affecting both the velocity of the AW and its attenuation.
Velocity of sound in salt water	This is another variable parameter. Acoustic wave velocity is precisely 1505.0 m/s at 15.0 °C and atmospheric pressure, but most echo-sounding equipment is calibrated at 1500.0 m/s
Reflective surface of the seabed	The amplitude of the reflected energy varies with the consistency of the ocean floor.
Noise	Either inherent noise or that produced by one's own transmission causes the signal-to-noise ratio to degrade, and thus weak echo signals may be lost in noise.
Frequency of transmission	This will vary with the system, i.e. depth sounding or Doppler speed log.
Angle of incidence of the propagated beam	The closer the angle to vertical the greater will be the energy reflected by the seabed.

## 3.2 SENSORS

In the following section a variety of sensor type, their workings and useful applications are presented. A selection is made for sensor types that can be used underwater, in an environment which is deprived of a GPS coverage.

The shortcomings and strength of the different sensor are often fused together with a complementary filter, where a mathematical filter is used to mix and merge the two values, or by use of a Kalman-filter which, is an algorithm that uses a series of measurements observed over time, containing statistical noise and other inaccuracies, and produces estimates of unknown variables that tend to be more precise than those based on a single measurement alone,. The following sections, shortly describe the

workings of an accelerometer, gyroscope magnetometer and a pressure sensor, which will be used in Section 3.3.1, where these sensor will be fused together with a Kalman filter, to obtain an accurate heading and positioning system.

While sensors described in Section 3.2.1 determine the state of a dredge bot; Namely its orientation and position. The sensors described in Section 3.2.2 discusses a variety of sensors which are needed to gauge the environment.

### 3.2.1 STATE SENSING

In order for a dredge bot to perform its tasks it has to be aware of its state. As described in Section 4.4.1, the state vector  $\vec{x}_k$  describe the position in a global reference frame and the orientation of the dredge bot itself. This state vector can be obtained using a fusion of multiple sensors, which are described below.

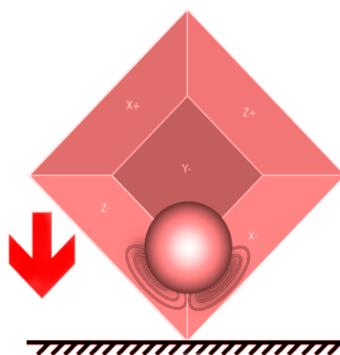
#### INERTIAL MEASUREMENT UNIT

Leccadito, Bakker, Niu, et al. [63] describes Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) as a platform of sensors which output measurements of the vehicle state, such as angular rates and accelerations. The sensors usually consist of a gyroscope, which outputs angular rates about the three vehicle axes, and accelerometer, which output acceleration also along each of the three axes. These sensors are sometimes complemented with a magnetometer, which measures the strength of a magnetic field, like the one generated by the earth, along three axes.

#### ACCELEROMETER

There are many different types of Micro Electro Mechanical System (MEMS) based accelerometer. The more expensive MEMS are laser and optical based, whilst cheaper models are piezoresistive, capacitive sensing and piezoelectric. Leccadito, Bakker, Niu, et al. [63] describes the working of a accelerometer as follows; The sensor can be thought of as a ball in a box. If the accelerometer meter is still and there are no forces present, the sensor will measure  $0.0 \text{ m/s}^2$  on all three axes; The ball is suspended in air. If the sensor is suddenly moved, the ball will hit the wall with an opposing force compared to the movement. An acceleration can be measured because of Newtons second law  $F = ma$ .

In the scenario where there is no external forces present, the accelerometer would only measure the acceleration of the opposite direction of movement, however, on earth there is the external force of gravity pulling on the sensor. If the sensor is positioned on a flat surface with the z-axis aligned as up and down, x-axis left and right, and y-axis forward and back, gravity will always be in the negative z direction.



**FIGURE 3.7: GRAVITATIONAL PULL ON MULTIPLE AXES [63]**

Due to the gravitational pull an accelerometer can be used to calculate the heading. Because the sensed acceleration is divided amongst the walls of which the ball is in contact with, as is shown in figure 3.7. These measurements can be directly computed into position or Euler angles roll  $\phi_{IMU}$  and pitch  $\theta_{IMU}$  using trigonometry. Which is shown in equation 3.6. Which allows the magnetometer to calculate a heading angle, which will be described in section 3.2.1.

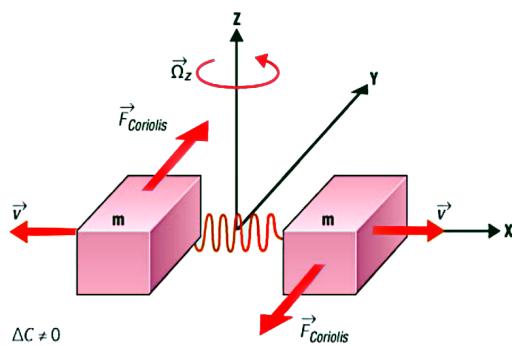
$$\begin{bmatrix} \psi_{IMU} \\ \theta_{IMU} \\ \phi_{IMU} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \arctan\left(-\frac{a_y}{a_z}\right) \\ \arcsin -\frac{a_x}{\sqrt{a_x^2 + a_y^2 + a_z^2}} \\ \text{Magnetometer Heading} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.6)$$

Since acceleration can be integrated over time as velocity, which in turn can be integrated over time as a distance traveled, accelerometers can be used as a dead-reckoning device. Determining a location, with respect to a starting position, in a GPS deprived environment. Abyarjoo, Barreto, Cofino, *et al.* [71] states that the problem with accelerometers is that they measure both acceleration due to the device's linear movement and acceleration due to the earth's gravity, which is pointing toward earth. Since it cannot distinguish between these two accelerations, there is a need to separate gravity and motion acceleration by filtering. Which is also described by Nistler and Selekw [52], whom further states that it should be clear that the measurement for a robotic vehicle on an irregular terrain need to be processed further if they are to be used in the robot odometry system.

Possible sources of error with MEMS accelerometers are identified as effects of temperature and discretization of an analog signal to its digital representation. Abyarjoo, Barreto, Cofino, *et al.* [71] observed no drift of the signal but established that it contains a lot of noise. Kownacki [49] describes that a Kalman filter is a good candidate to filter the noise, using a gyroscope. Where the Analog Digital Conversion (ADC) stores a obtained analog value as a digital representation. This is usually done with a resolution between  $2^{10}[\text{bit}]$  and  $2^{16}[\text{bit}]$ , resulting in a resolution of 1024, 2048 till 65536. But discretization of a continuous signal inherently degrades it.

## GYROSCOPE

gyroscope has been used for many years in navigation. It usually involves a spinning object, that is tilted perpendicular to the spin, where the angle of the reference surface can be measured. Where the angle is affected by tilting or rotating. gyroscope which are usually used in electronics, are so called MEMS. They are based on other principles such as a laser ring, which observe a phase shift between two laser being sent in a circular path. These sensor are expensive and a cheaper alternative is a gyroscope which uses a piezoelectric sensor that works because of a Coriolis effect coupled with vibrations, tuning fork which measures the displacement of two objects.



**FIGURE 3.8: GYROSCOPE USING CORIOLIS EFFECT [63]**

Leccadito, Bakker, Niu, *et al.* [63] tells that most MEMS gyroscope are based on the tuning fork structure, where the Coriolis effect is used to measure  $\omega$  which is angular velocity given in  $[\text{rad/s}]$ . This is accomplished by two masses oscillating in opposite directions. When a rotation is applied, the masses are affected by the Coriolis force and the displacement is measured by a change in capacitance, as is shown in figure ???. From where the heading at a certain axis can be calculated using the trapezoidal-rule which, is a technique for approximating the definite integral,. Equation 3.7 illustrates how to obtain the current heading from a discrete sample set.

$$\theta_n = \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} \omega dx = \sum_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} \omega dt \approx \theta_{n-1} + (t_n - t_{n-1}) \left[ \frac{\omega(t_{n-1}) + \omega(t_n)}{2} \right] \quad (3.7)$$

Abyarjoo, Barreto, Cofino, et al. [71] observed that the computed results drifts over time. The explanation for this phenomenon is that the integration accumulates the noise over time and turns noise into the drift, which yields unacceptable results. An other source of drift is temperature related, Feng, Li, and Zhang [73] states that a gyroscope is sensitive to temperature variations, so the surrounding temperature variations leads to a the bias drift of the gyroscope. Then as the error of the angular velocity, the drift causes error accumulation in the orientations. Where this drift is not linear with temperature. Equation 3.8 shows the model of a MEMS gyroscope drift, where  $\omega_t$  which is true angular velocity given in [rad/s], but unknown and  $B_d$  which is slow chancing component of the signal; this is the gyroscope drift given in [rad/s]. Where  $n_s$  which is stochastic component of a signal given in [rad/s].

$$\omega = \omega_t + B_d + n_s \quad (3.8)$$

Abyarjoo, Barreto, Cofino, et al. [71] further states that the slow chancing component of the gyroscope is not only related to the measured temperature of the MEMS, but also related to the temperature gradient of the surroundings. Because the temperature gradient and the rate of temperature variation have a linear relationship, the slow-chancing component  $B_d$  can be modelled, as shown in equation 3.9. Where  $a, b, c$  are the parameters of the model Wei, Fang, and Li [30] and  $T$  is the measured temperature of the gyroscope in K and  $T'$  which is rate of temperature variation given in [K/s]

$$B_d = aT + bT' + c \quad (3.9)$$

Other sources of errors are the conversion from the generated analog signal to a digital representation. The ADC in a MEMS stores the obtained analog value as a discrete digital representation with a certain sequence of bits. This is usually done in word with a resolution between  $2^{10}$ [bit] and  $2^{16}$ [bit], resulting in a resolution of 1024, 2048 till 65536. Which should be stored in two registries. Discretization of an continuous signal inherently degrades its.

## MAGNETOMETER

A magnetometer measure the strength of a magnetic field. Where a MEMS magnetometer operates by detecting the effects of the Lorentz force; Which results in a change in voltage or resonant frequency which can be measured electronically. Leccadito, Bakker, Niu, et al. [63] explains that a magnetometer coupled with an accelerometer can effectively calculate a heading angle. This is further explained by Konvalin [37] whom explain that raw magnetometer measurements cannot be used to calculate the heading angle due to the decrease in sensitivity as elevation and bank angles increase, introducing error. In order to obtain the correct heading a rotation must first be applied removing the bank angle, after which removes the pitch angle. Which can be obtained by equation 3.6. Where the heading, or yaw  $\psi_{IMU}$  can be calculated following equations 3.10 through 3.12. Where  $x_m$ ,  $y_m$  and  $z_m$  are the raw magnetometer values.

$$x_h = x_m \cos \theta_{IMU} + z_m \sin \theta_{IMU} \quad (3.10)$$

$$y_h = x_m \sin \phi_{IMU} \sin \theta_{IMU} + y_m \cos \phi_{IMU} - z_m \sin \phi_{IMU} \cos \theta_{IMU} \quad (3.11)$$

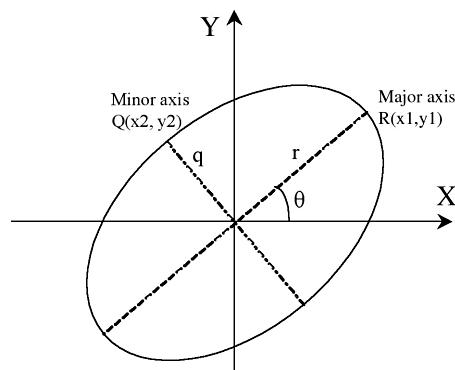
$$\phi_{IMU}(y_h, x_h) = \begin{cases} \arctan\left(\frac{y_h}{x_h}\right) & \text{if } x_h > 0 \\ \arctan\left(\frac{y_h}{x_h}\right) + \pi & \text{if } x_h < 0, y_h \geq 0 \\ \arctan\left(\frac{y_h}{x_h}\right) - \pi & \text{if } x_h < 0, y_h < 0 \\ +\frac{1}{2}\pi & \text{if } x_h = 0, y_h > 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2}\pi & \text{if } x_h = 0, y_h < 0 \\ \text{undef} & \text{if } x_h = 0, y_h = 0 \end{cases} \quad (3.12)$$

The main sources of error using a magnetometer are distortions of the earth's magnetic field, which can be classified in two categories: soft- and hard iron. Where hard iron distortions can be described as a constant additive disturbance in the magnetic field of the magnetometer. Which can be created by ferrous materials around the sensors. Such as the construction of a crawler and the casing of the electronics and hydraulics. Which can create its own magnetic field and adds to the sensors magnetic fields and is in constant position relative to the sensor. According to Leccadito, Bakker, Niu, et al. [63], such a distortion is constant and can be eliminated by a constant offset or bias. In order to eliminate the offset equation 3.14 can be used. Where  $\vec{m}$  which is raw magnetometer vector given in [T] and  $\vec{m}_{hi}$  which is hard iron adjusted vector given in [T]. Which is the offset from center obtained by averaging the minimum and maximum value in  $n$  calibration values. Obtained by rotating the sensor in the iron casing. Since this value will be constant, it can be stored in memory.

$$\vec{m} = \begin{bmatrix} x_m \\ y_m \\ z_m \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.13)$$

$$\vec{m}_{hi} = \vec{m} - \frac{\min(\vec{m})_n + \max(\vec{m})_n}{2} \quad (3.14)$$

soft iron distortions are different from hard iron disturbances, since they don't necessarily generate their own magnetic field. Leccadito, Bakker, Niu, et al. [63] describes that soft iron effects on the sensor are determined by the orientation of the materials, and it is usually a perturbation of a circular magnetic field to an ellipse. Calculating the soft iron distortion is computationally more expensive than the hard iron elimination.



**FIGURE 3.9: SOFT IRON DISTORTION [37]**

It is assumed that tilt compensation (eq. 3.12) and hard iron offset (eq. 3.14) are already performed at this stage and that the center of the ellipse is positioned at point (0,0). Which is drawn in figure 3.9. The first sequential step is to calculate the magnitude of each point on the ellipse and finding

the smallest and greatest value, using equation 3.15 and 3.16. The y-index of the greatest magnitude should be stored in  $y_1$ , which, together can be used to calculate  $\theta_{si}$ , as is shown in equation 3.17. By scaling and rotating the hard iron  $\vec{m}_{hi}$  vector a correct heading  $\vec{m}_{si}$  can be calculated, which is shown in equation 3.18.

$$r_{si} = \max \left( \sqrt{x_n^2 + y_n^2} \right) \quad (3.15)$$

$$q_{si} = \min \left( \sqrt{x_n^2 + y_n^2} \right) \quad (3.16)$$

$$\theta_{si} = \arcsin \left( \frac{y_1}{r_{si}} \right) \quad (3.17)$$

$$\vec{m}_{si} = \frac{q_{si}}{r_{si}} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_{si} & \sin \theta_{si} & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_{si} & \cos \theta_{si} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \vec{m}_{hi} \quad (3.18)$$

## PRESSURE SENSOR

White [53] describes a fluid pressure  $p$  as the normal shear stress on any plane through a fluid element at rest is a point property, which is taken positive for compression, by convention. Which can be described by equation 3.19. Here  $p$  is the pressure at a certain depth, which is comprised of the specific weight of water  $\gamma_w(T)$  as a function of temperature, and the total amount of water on top of that point  $z$ .

$$p = p_a - \gamma_w(T)z \quad (3.19)$$

Since pressure is a function of  $\gamma_w$  special consideration regarding the impact of soil disturbance, due to dredging activities, in water has to be made. Since the specific weight of the water column above the sensor changes when sediment is mixed with water above the pressure sensor. MTI dredging specialists Dr. ir. van Wijk and ir. Hoftsra; Both estimate that the disturbed sediment won't drift higher than 2.0 m for an sediment with an *in situ* specific weight of  $\gamma_{sw} = 1400.0 \text{ N/m}^3$ . That mixture will in all likelihood have a specific weight of  $\gamma_m = 1200.0 \text{ N/m}^3$ . Because the specific weight of water is  $\gamma_w = 1000.0 \text{ N/m}^3$ , the error when calculating depth with a pressure sensor is depended on the position of the sensor with regards to the bottom.

Using equation 3.20 where  $\Delta_p$  is the pressure difference between the specific weight of a column of water  $\gamma_w$  compared with a column of water and sediment  $\gamma_m$  of a certain height  $z_p$ . Where the specific weight consists of the density of a fluid  $\rho_w$  for water or  $\rho_m$  for mixture multiplied with a gravitational acceleration vector  $g$ . When the allowed  $z_\epsilon$  which is height error given in [m] is known. A height for the pressure sensor, with regards to the top fluid column can be obtained. It is estimated that an acceptable error in depth readings is 200.0 mm, when using equation 3.20 gives an minimum sensor height of 1.9 m from the soil bed. Which indicates that the sensor should be placed at the top of a dredge bot, away from the disturbance source.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \Delta p = (\gamma_w - \gamma_m) z_p \\ \gamma_w = \rho_w g \\ \gamma_m = \rho_m g \\ z_\epsilon = \frac{\Delta p}{\gamma_w} \end{array} \right\} z_\epsilon = \frac{-(\rho_m - \rho_w) z_p}{\rho_w} \implies z_p = \frac{z_\epsilon \rho_w}{\rho_m - \rho_w} \quad (3.20)$$

Three types of pressure measurements are usually performed, according to Webster [13]:

TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Absolute pressure	Where the pressure is measured against an perfect vacuum where pressure is zero.
Gage pressure	Is the pressure difference between the point of measurement and the ambient.
Differential pressure	Is the pressure difference between two points, one of which is chosen to be the reference. In reality, both pressures can vary, but only the pressure difference is of interest here.

Since pressure is defined as the force per unit area, the most direct way of measuring pressure is to isolate an area on an elastic mechanical element for the force to act on. The deformation of the sensing element produces displacements and strains that can be precisely sensed to give a calibrated measurement of the pressure [13].

#### NOTE 3.1: SCOPE

Although there are a multitude of pressure sensing techniques, such as: seals, snubbers, bellow, bourdon, helical, diaphragm, differential, electronic and manometers. This research will focus on diaphragm and electronic pressure sensors, since these are commonly used throughout the industry and easily integrated in a crawler. Where the focus lies on behaviour and characteristics.

Pressure sensors that depend on deflection of a diaphragm have been used for centuries, the last few decades the elastic hysteresis, friction and drift effects have been reduced to  $\pm 0.1\%$ . This is mainly due to the use of a microprocessor, which applies memorized non-linearity corrections [23].

Detection methods are usually capacitive -sensors, which are highly accurate (better than  $0.1\%$ ) and can cover a high pressure range, from nearly vacuum ( $1.0 \times 10^{-1}$  to  $1.0 \times 10^7$ ) Pa. These sensors rest on the principle, where a metal or silicon diaphragm serves as the pressure sensing element and is regarded as one electrode of a capacitor. The other electrode is stationary and usually consists of a deposited metal layer on a ceramic or glass substrate. When a pressure is applied the diaphragm deforms and the changes in between electrodes is changed which results in a change in capacitance.

Where an alternative are the piezoresistive pressure sensors, which are the most common type of pressure sensor in use. These sensors measure the pressure by measuring the change in electric resistance of a material when stresses or strains are applied. Both Webster [13] and Liptak [23] state that semiconductor, such as silicon and germanium, are by far the most appealing sensing elements in this type of sensor. The most attractive characteristic of semiconductors is their sensitivity, which is close to 100 times greater than that of metallic wires.

### 3.2.2 EXTERNAL SENSOR

A crawler needs to be aware of its surroundings; It needs to sense how far objects and landmarks are in respect to its own position and orientation. Awareness of its environment can be used to minimize dead-reckoning drift, defined the work area and help avoid collisions.

**NOTE 3.2: SCOPE**

Although there are multiple examples of AUVs that make use of EMW, light or computer vision to help them sense its environment, these are deemed not usable for a crawler. EMW has a limited range in salt water environments (discussed in Section 3.1.2), light will scatter due to diffraction created by floating sand particles and computer vision can be problematic due to limited light sources and low contrast conditions. Which is also a result of floating sand particles. The focus of this research will therefore lie on acoustic sensing.

**ACOUSTIC SENSING**

For a crawler to sense its environment using sound waves, it relies on ToF and DoA principles.

**3.3 LOCATION UNDER UNCERTAINTY**

Due to the absence of an ubiquitous global localization system such as GPS in underwater environments, crawler navigation is confined to these three primary methods: (1) dead-reckoning, (2) time of flight acoustic navigation, and (3) geophysical navigation.

The most obvious and longest established technique is dead-reckoning, which consists in integrating vehicle velocity measurements from sensors such as accelerometer and gyroscope to obtain new position estimates. The problem with exclusive reliance on dead-reckoning is that the position error increases without bound as the distance travelled by the crawler [67]. It will be illustrated in section 3.3.1 that the position error can be limited by making use of sensor fusion. But this won't be enough. The effects of sporadically position updating using stationary Long Base Line (LBL) and Ultra Short Base Line (USBL) is shown as well. Both LBL and USBL make use of acoustic energy, which is described in more detail in section 3.1.2. Because acoustic energy is known for its excellent travel characteristics underwater it's common practice to deploy those transponders as beacons, such that they can update the position and bound the dead-reckoning error.

Geophysical navigation such as Terrain Relative navigation (TRN) and Simultaneous Localization And Mapping (SLAM) are up and coming methods which show potential. These use the characteristic of a terrain, perceived through their sensors, to obtain their position. These methods will be illustrated in section ??

Other methods for navigation under uncertainty are based on probabilities taken into account *a priori* known characteristics of sensors and actuators such as Linear-Quadratic Gaussian Motion Planning (LQG-MP) and Rapidly exploring Random Trees (RRT). According to Galceran, Nagappa, Carreras, et al. [61] these methods are theoretically satisfactory but they require discretization of the environment, and will, as a result suffer from scalability problems. They propose the use of *a priori* known bathymetric-map which, is submerged equivalent of an above-water topographic map,. Which classifies this method as off-line and therefore unsuitable to be employed for an autonomous operating crawler. These will therefore not be described in this thesis.

Recent studies have been focused on minimizing uncertainties using multiple robots, such as the leap-frog strategy proposed by Tully, Kantor, and Choset [46], which uses a team of three robots where two alternating robots act as stationary beacons. Others like Wei Gao, Yalong Liu, and Bo Xu [70] use a single surface which act as a communication and navigation aid. It is quite common to filter sensor readings and state vectors from the multiple robots using a Kalman filter. Section ?? describes in more detail how swarms of bots could help each other in estimating their position.

But this chapter begins with a dive into Kalman filter. The sections below describe how the state representation  $\vec{x}_k$  of a crawler can be obtained using a Kalman filter, which fuses multiple sensors together. It will then explore how the growth of errors can be bounded, using a sporadically obtained position estimate from an alternative source, such as moving or stationary beacons.

**3.3.1 LOCALIZATION REFINEMENT USING KALMAN FILTERS**

A crawler has multiple sensors on-board to establish where and what its orientation is; These will in a likelihood be a gyroscope, accelerometer, magnetometer and a pressure sensor. It was established in section 3.2.1 that each of these sensors have their own limitations and strengths. It is common practice

to fuse multiple sensors together, to counteract these limitations with strengths of the other sensors. Kalman filter or as they are also known Linear Quadratic Estimation (LQE), are a tried and practice method to achieve this.

Section 3.3.1 explains the filter using a simple example of a falling ball with only gravity working on the ball.

### 3.3.2 BASIC KALMAN FILTERING

Before a Kalman filter can be designed it is important that the basics are explained. The section will feature a short description of the background and workings of a Kalman filter and quaternion which, is a number system that extends the complex numbers. They were first described by Irish mathematician William Rowan Hamilton in 1843 and applied to mechanics in three-dimensional space. A feature of quaternions is that multiplication of two quaternions is non-commutative. Hamilton defined a quaternion as the quotient of two directed lines in a three-dimensional space or equivalently as the quotient of two vectors.,

In 1960, R.E. Kalman published his paper Kalman [2] — "A new approach to linear filtering and prediction problems". In this paper he described a recursive solution to the discrete-data linear filter problem. Welch and Bishop [31], d'Andréa-Novel and Lara [59], Chui and Chen [12], Grewal and Andrews [75] all describe how Kalman filters have had a huge impact on control theory, and have been subject to extensive research and application. The paragraphs below are based on the theory proposed by Kalman [2].

A Kalman filter can be used to control a dynamic model, especially those represented by systems of linear differential equations. These generally come from the laws of physics. The real-world dynamics are used to model the state dynamics. Which should contain a fairly faithful replication of the true system dynamics. The state of a falling object in one dimension can be described with the state  $\vec{x}_k = [s_z, v_z]^T$ . Here  $s_z$  which is position along the z-axis given in [m] and  $v_z$  which is velocity along the z-axis given in [m/s].

A Kalman filter works by estimating the state of a process based on *a priori* states. It is in effect an optimal estimator based on a prediction made from the previous input and current input. The Kalman filter addresses the general problem of trying to estimate the state  $\hat{x}_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  of a discrete-time controlled process that is governed by the linear stochastic difference equation 3.21. Here  $\mathbf{F}$  is a state transition model which is applied to the previous state  $\vec{x}_{k-1}$ , to estimate the current state. Where  $\mathbf{B}$  is the control-input model which is applied to the control vector  $\vec{u}_k$ . The process noise  $\vec{w}_k$  is assumed to be white, with a normal probability distribution. The  $\mathbf{Q}_k$  is the process noise covariance. Each predicted step is updated with a measurement, which is shown in equation 3.22. Here the measurement  $\vec{z}_k \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , where  $\mathbf{H}$  is the observation model, which maps the true state space  $\vec{x}_k$  into the observed space, whilst taking into account the observation noise  $\vec{v}_k$ , which is assumed to be unrelated to  $\vec{w}_k$ , and is white with a normal probability distribution. Where  $\mathbf{R}$  is the measurement noise covariance.

$$\hat{x}_k = \mathbf{F} \vec{x}_{k-1} + \mathbf{B} \vec{u}_k + \vec{w}_k, \quad p(\vec{w}_k) \sim N(0, \mathbf{Q}_k) \quad (3.21)$$

$$\vec{z}_k = \mathbf{H} \vec{x}_k + \vec{v}_k, \quad p(\vec{v}_k) \sim N(0, \mathbf{R}) \quad (3.22)$$

Figure 3.10, shows the algorithm as a flow diagram. It starts with and initial assumption of the state  $\vec{x}_0$  and  $\mathbf{P}_0$ , which is the initial state of the error covariance matrix. Which can be described as a measure of the estimated accuracy of the state estimate.

These initialized values are fed in the loop as a **previous state**. With which a **new predicted state** is estimated using equation 3.21. If the previous example of a falling object in one dimensions is used, with the state  $\vec{x}_k = [s_z, v_z]^T$ . A prediction can be made of the position in the next time step. Which will follows the equation  $s_{z,k} = s_{z,k-1} + v_{z,k-1}\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}a_{z,k-1}\Delta t^2$  and the new velocity  $v_{z,k} = v_{z,k-1} + a_{z,k}\Delta t$ . For simplicity sake the process noise  $\vec{w}_k$  is set to zero. The matrix  $\mathbf{F}$  is used to map the previous state to the new state. Where the matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  is used to map the control variable  $\vec{u}_k$  to the new state. These variable dictate the change; In the case of our example it will be an acceleration due to gravity  $a_z = -g$ . Equation 3.23 illustrates the new estimation of the state of our example. Here  $\Delta t$  is an incremental

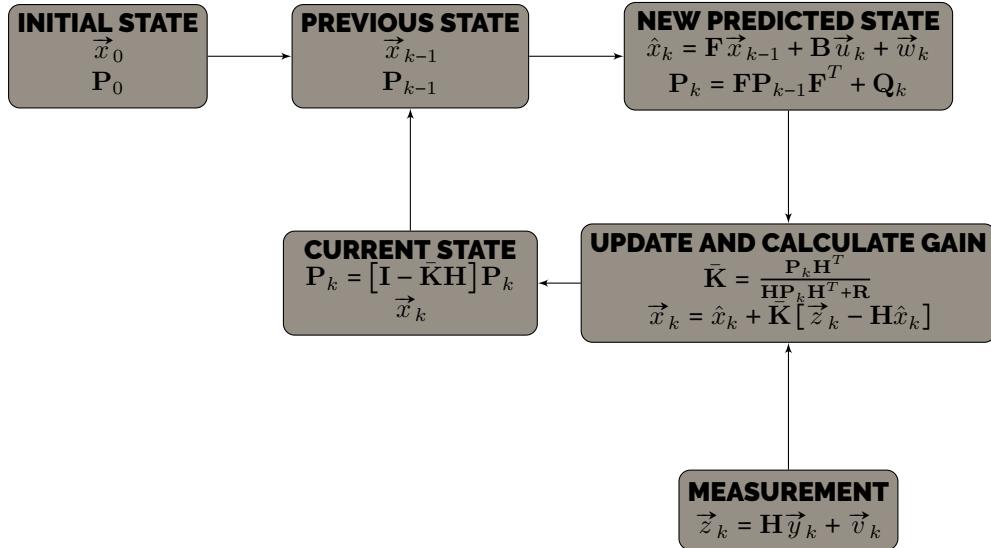


FIGURE 3.10: FLOW OF A KALMAN FILTER

time step.

$$\hat{x}_k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \Delta t \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} s_{z,k-1} \\ v_{z,k-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2}\Delta t^2 \\ \Delta t \end{bmatrix} [a_{z,k}] + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s_{z,k-1} + v_{z,k-1}\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}a_{z,k}\Delta t^2 \\ v_{z,k-1} + a_{z,k}\Delta t \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.23)$$

The new predicted error of the estimate, known as the error covariance matrix  $P_k$ , is used to map the covariance between the  $i^{th}$  and  $j^{th}$  elements of the state vector  $\vec{x}_k$ . In this example it is initially assumed that error between the state of its position  $s_z$  and the velocity are unrelated. The assumption is also made that the position has an error of  $\sigma_{s_z}$  and the velocity  $\sigma_{v_z}$ . From this, a simple error covariance matrix can be constructed. Which can be used in equation 3.24, with which a new error covariance matrix can be calculated, as is shown in equation 3.25. The noise matrix  $Q_k$  is set to zero.

$$P_k = FP_{k-1}F^T + Q_k \quad (3.24)$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_k &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \Delta t \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{s_z}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{v_z}^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \Delta t \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \\ &\begin{bmatrix} \Delta t^2 \sigma_{v_z}^2 + \sigma_{s_z}^2 & \Delta t \sigma_{s_z}^2 \\ \Delta t \sigma_{s_z}^2 & \sigma_{s_z}^2 \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} \Delta t^2 \sigma_{v_z}^2 + \sigma_{s_z}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{s_z}^2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (3.25)$$

Once the prediction of a new state and error covariance matrix is made, the measurements can be calculated. It is important to note that only the inputs and outputs of the system can be measured. Equation 3.26 shows the measured values, mapped to the state space  $\vec{x}_k$ , where  $H$  is the measurement sensitivity matrix defining the linear relationship between the state of a dynamic system and the measurements that can be made, which for now is set equal to a  $2 \times 2$  identity matrix. Let's assume that for our example only the position can be measured  $s_{z,m,k}$  and that the measurement noise is assumed to be zero.

$$\vec{z}_k = H \vec{y}_k + \vec{v}_k \quad (3.26)$$

$$\vec{z}_k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} s_{z,m,k} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s_{z,m} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.27)$$

With the predicted state and the obtained measurements a new state can be estimated. During this **update** phase, we determine how much weight the Kalman filter needs to put in to its measurements compared to its predicted state. This can be done by calculating the  $\bar{\mathbf{K}}$  kalman-gain which, is the relative weight given to the measurements and current state estimate, and can be "tuned" to achieve particular performance. With a high gain, the filter places more weight on the most recent measurements, and thus follows them more responsively. With a low gain, the filter follows the model predictions more closely. At the extremes, a high gain close to one will result in a more jumpy estimated trajectory, while low gain close to zero will smooth out noise but decrease the responsiveness,. It can be calculated with equation 3.28. Where  $\mathbf{R}$  is the covariance matrix of observational (measurement) uncertainty.

$$\bar{\mathbf{K}} = \frac{\mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{H}^T}{\mathbf{H} \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R}} \quad (3.28)$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{K}} = \frac{\begin{bmatrix} \Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_s^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T}{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_s^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{s,m}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{v,m}^2 \end{bmatrix}} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2}{\Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2 + \sigma_{s,m}^2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\sigma_v^2}{\sigma_v^2 + \sigma_{v,m}^2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.29)$$

The Kalman gain obtained in equation 3.28, is used in equation 3.30. Where a new state is calculated by taking the predicted state  $\vec{x}_k$  calculated with equation 3.23 and adding the innovation multiplied with the Kalman gain  $\vec{z}_k - \mathbf{H}\hat{x}_k$ . Innovations are the differences between observed and predicted measurements. Grewal and Andrews [75] states that they are the carotid artery of a Kalman filter. They provide an easily accessible point for monitoring vital health status without disrupting normal operations, and the statistical and temporal properties of its pulses can tell us much about what might be right or wrong with a Kalman filter implementation.

From the worked out 1-dimensional example it becomes apparent, that the state variable, calculated in equation 3.31 are weighted average between the measurements and the prediction, normalized against the error of the covariance, between the state variables.

$$\vec{x}_k = \hat{x}_k + \bar{\mathbf{K}} [\vec{z}_k - \mathbf{H}\hat{x}_k] \quad (3.30)$$

$$\vec{x}_k = \begin{bmatrix} s_{z,k-1} + v_{z,k-1} \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} a_{z,k} \Delta t^2 \\ v_{z,k-1} + a_{z,k} \Delta t \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2}{\Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2 + \sigma_{s,m}^2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\sigma_v^2}{\sigma_v^2 + \sigma_{v,m}^2} \end{bmatrix} \dots$$

$$\left[ \begin{bmatrix} s_{z,m,k} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} s_{z,k-1} + v_{z,k-1} \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} a_{z,k} \Delta t^2 \\ v_{z,k-1} + a_{z,k} \Delta t \end{bmatrix} \right] = \dots \quad (3.31)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{s_{z,m} \Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + 2 a_{z,k} \Delta t^2 + 2 v_{z,k-1} \Delta t \sigma_{s,m}^2 + s_{z,m,k} \sigma_s^2 + s_{k-1} + \sigma_{s,m}^2}{\Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2 + \sigma_{s,m}^2} \\ \frac{\sigma_v^2 (v_{z,k-1} + 2 a_{z,k} \Delta t)}{\sigma_v^2 + \sigma_{v,m}^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

This newly obtained state, or **current state**  $\vec{x}_k$  can be used in the next iteration. During this phase

a new process covariance matrix  $\mathbf{P}_k$  is calculated with equation 3.32. Where the matrix  $\mathbf{I}$  is a  $2 \times 2$  identity matrix. Both the new state, obtained from equation 3.30 and the newly obtained process covariance matrix are set as the previous iteration.

$$\mathbf{P}_k = [\mathbf{I} - \bar{\mathbf{K}}\mathbf{H}] \mathbf{P}_k \quad (3.32)$$

$$\mathbf{P}_k = \left[ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2}{\Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2 + \sigma_{s,m}^2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\sigma_v^2}{\sigma_v^2 + \sigma_{v,m}^2} \end{bmatrix} \right] \left[ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right] \begin{bmatrix} \Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_s^2 \end{bmatrix} = \dots$$

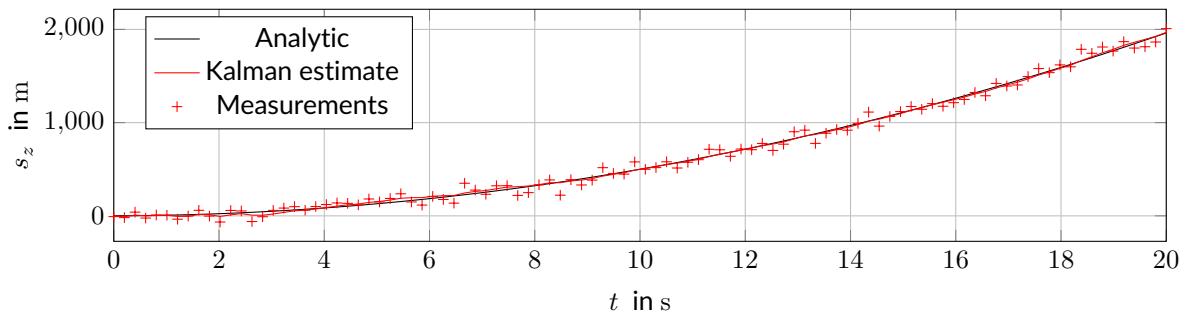
$$\left[ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sigma_{s,m}^2 (\Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2)}{\Delta t^2 \sigma_v^2 + \sigma_s^2 + \sigma_{s,m}^2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\sigma_v^2 \sigma_{v,m}^2}{\sigma_v^2 + \sigma_{v,m}^2} \end{bmatrix} \right] \quad (3.33)$$

The above described example of a falling ball can be simulated with a Python script. Such a script can be found in appendix C. Results from such a simulation are shown in figure 4.3. Were it is clearly evident that the estimated Kalman value, of the position, is a better estimate then the measured values. According to Roger R Labbe jr [80] an effective way to measure the results of a simulated Kalman filters, is the Normalized Estimated Error Squared (NEES). Which can be calculated with equation 3.35, where  $\tilde{x}_k$  is the error, or difference, between the ground truth state vector  $\vec{x}_{g,k}$  and the estimated filter value  $\hat{x}_k$ , squared and multiplied with the inverse of the process covariance matrix  $\mathbf{P}_k$ ; All evaluated at time  $k$ .

$$\tilde{x}_k = \vec{x}_{g,k} - \hat{x}_k \quad (3.34)$$

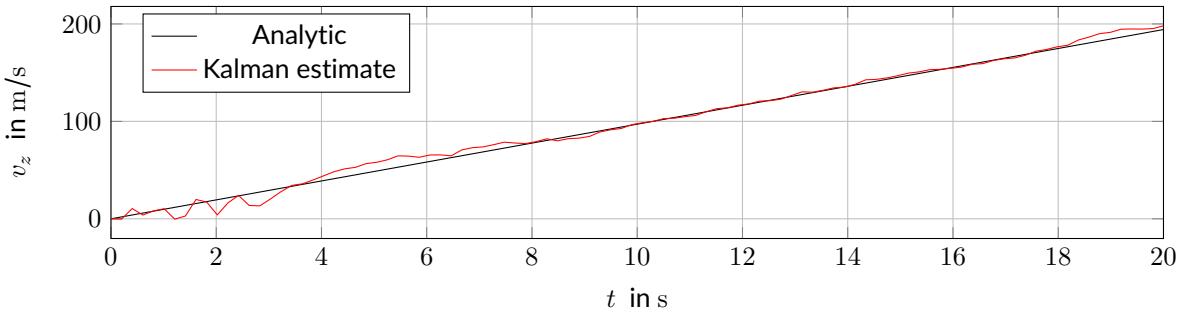
$$\epsilon_{N,k} = \tilde{x}_k \mathbf{P}_k^{-1} \tilde{x}_k \quad (3.35)$$

$$\bar{\epsilon}_N = \frac{1}{k} \sum_1^k \epsilon_{N,k} \leq n_x \quad (3.36)$$

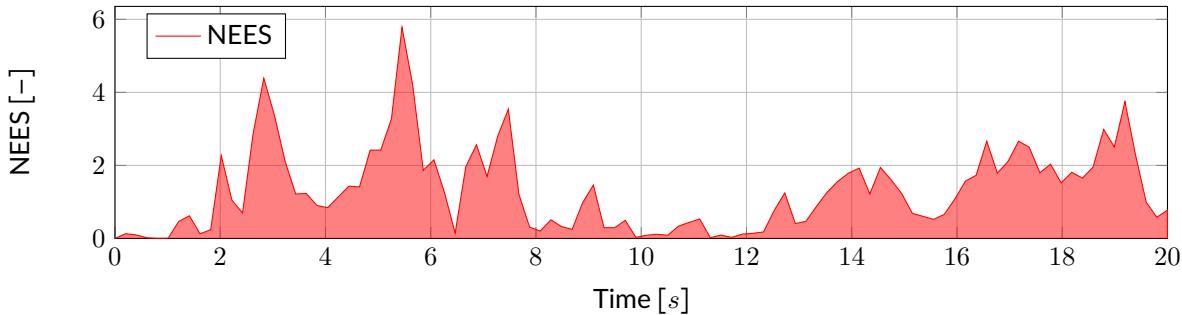


**FIGURE 3.11: COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED, MEASURED AND REAL POSITION**

This means that if the covariance matrix gets smaller, NEES gets larger for the same error. A covariance matrix is the filter's estimate of its error, so if it is small relative to the estimation error then it is performing worse than if it is large relative to the same estimation error. Equation 3.35 gives a scalar for each time step, which is said to be *chi-squared distributed with  $n$  degrees of freedom*. The average NEES value  $\bar{\epsilon}_N$  should be less then number of elements in the state space vector  $n_x$ , as is shown in

**FIGURE 3.12: COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED AND REAL SPEED**

equation 3.36. The performance of our example or the  $\bar{\epsilon}_N = 1.3$  is shown in figure 3.13.

**FIGURE 3.13: NEES for Kalman filter**

### 3.4 COVERAGE PATH PLANNING

Two of the use cases described in the introduction dictate that the crawler has to cover the whole area preferably with an optimal path. This type of path planning problem differs from the in Chapter 3.4 described problem. Choset describes the task of determining a path that passes an effector (e.g., a robot, a detector, etc.) over all points in a free space as a coverage path problem [28], hence that this task is called a Coverage Path Planning (CPP). This type of task can be found as an integral part of many robotic applications such as vacuum cleaning robots, painter robots, autonomous underwater vehicles creating image mosaic, demining robots, lawn mowers, automated harvesters, window cleaners and inspection of complex underwater structures [60].

All these type of robots need to cover a complete region in order to perform their tasks. According to Cao, Huang, and Hall [6] such a mobile robot should use the following criteria, for a region filling operation

1. The mobile robot must move through an entire area, i.e., the overall travel must cover a whole region.
2. The mobile robot must fill the region without overlapping paths.
3. Continuous and sequential operations without any repetition of paths is required of the robot.
4. The robot must avoid all obstacles in a region.
5. Simple motion trajectories (e.g., straight lines or circles) should be used for simplicity in control.
6. An “optimal” path is desired under the available conditions. It is not always possible to satisfy all these criteria for a complex environment. Sometimes a priority consideration is required.

Galceran [68] describes that these types coverage algorithms can be classified as *heuristic* or *complete* depending on whether or not the provable guarantee complete coverage of the free space. At the same time they can be classified as off-line or on-line. off-line algorithm rely on only on stationary information, and the environment is assumed to be known. Usually on-line algorithms are needed if some kind of adaptivity to the requirement is required. On-line algorithms usually utilize real-time sensor measurements. Thus these algorithms can also be called *sensor-based coverage algorithms*. on-line coverage algorithms are in effect “divide and conquer” strategies, which Wong and MacDonald [26] describes as a powerful technique used to solve many problems and many mapping procedures carry

out a process of space decomposition, where a complex space is repeatedly divided until simple sub-regions of a particular type are created. The problem at hand is then solved by applying a simpler algorithm to the simpler sub-regions.

Since an autonomous operating crawler can be stationed in different environments with multiple unknown obstacles, the focus of this chapter lies on on-line or sensor-based coverage algorithms from which the following are identified:

- morse-based cellular decomposition
  - On-line Morse-based boustrophedon decomposition
  - Morse-based cellular decomposition combined with generalized Voronoi diagram
- Landmark-based topological coverage
  - Slice decomposition
  - On-line topological coverage algorithm
- Grid-based methods
  - Grid-based coverage using spanning trees
  - Neural network-based coverage on grid maps
- Coverage under uncertainty
- Multi-robot methods

### 3.4.1 MORSE-BASED CELLULAR DECOMPOSITION

Morse-based cellular decomposition is mostly based upon the following method exact or approximate cellular decomposition Acar, Choset, Rizzi, et al. [21] State that exact cellular decompositions represent the free space of a robot by dividing it into non-overlapping region sub-level cells such that the union of the cells fills the free space. Complete coverage is then reduced to ensuring that the robot visits each cell. These cells are constructed using Morse function, a function for which all critical point are non-degenerate and all critical levels are different.

Morse-functions are visualized by Nicolaescu [35] as follows: Suppose  $M$  is a smooth, compact manifold which is assumed to be embedded in a Euclidean space  $\mathcal{E}$ , and from which we would like to understand some basic topological invariants. This is done with a “slicing” technique.

Were a unit vector  $\vec{u}$  is fixed in  $\mathcal{E}$  and which start slicing  $M$  with the family of hyperplanes perpendicular to  $\vec{u}$ . Such a hyperplane will in general intersect  $M$  along a submanifold (slice). The manifold can be recovered by continuously stacking the slices on top of each other in the same order as they were cut out of  $M$ .

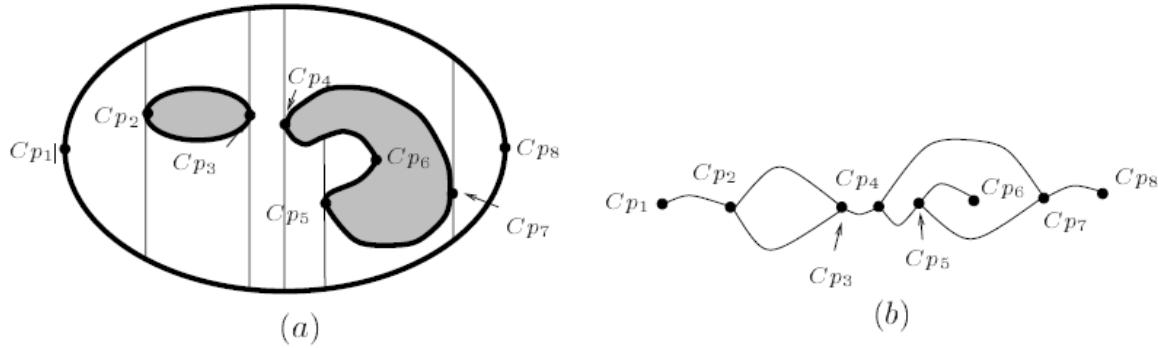
If this collection of slices is visualized as a deck of cards with various shapes, which are piled up in the order that they were produced, there will be an increasing stack of slices. As this stack grows, it can be observed that at certain moments in time the shape suffers a qualitative change. The theory proposed by Morse extracts quantifiable information, through studying the evolution of this growing stack of slices.

Each moment in time that this pile changes is called a critical value, which correspond to moments in time when the hyperplane intersect tangentially. These points marks the boundary of a cell. Acar, Choset, Rizzi, et al. [21] states that Morse theory assures that between those critical point “merging” and “severing” of slices does not occur and that a robot can trivially perform simple motions, such as back and forth motions between critical points and thus guarantee complete coverage of a cell. Hence this method is dubbed Morse-based cellular decomposition

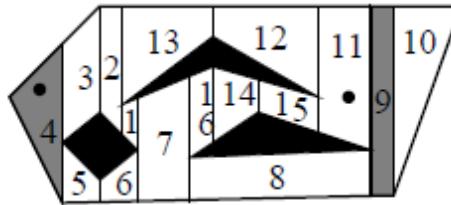
The above described method is depicted in figure 3.14 (a). Such an environment can be represented with a graph such as shown in figure 3.14 (b). Each critical value corresponds with a node while a cell is represented by an edge.

The above describe technique has a minor short-coming, Choset, Acar, Rizzi, et al. [15] states that this method may result in many small cell, such as cell 9 shown in figure 3.15, which can seemingly be “clumped” into neighbouring cells. Reorganizing the cells can result in a shorter (more efficient) path to cover the same area. To address this issue, the Boustrophedon Cellular Decomposition (BCD) approach was introduced.

Boustrophedon which literally means “*the way of the ox*” merges these cells, such that a more optimal path can be found. This can be done by using different Morse function, which results in different slice

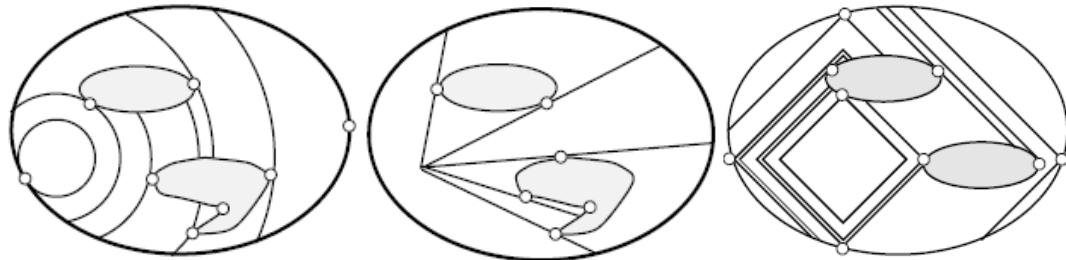


**FIGURE 3.14: (a) Exact cellular decomposition, (b) Graph representation**



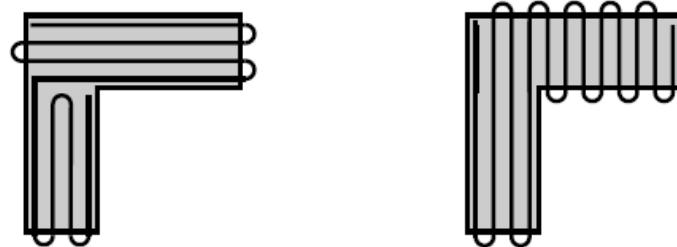
**FIGURE 3.15: TRAPEZOIDAL DECOMPOSITION OF BOUND FREE SPACE[15].**

shapes and therefore different cell decompositions, as is shown in figure 3.16 [60][14][21]. Such as spiral, spike or squarel.



**FIGURE 3.16: SPIRAL, SPIKE AND SQUAREL [21]**

Once each cell is identified a strategy for the infill is executed, which is described by Huang [19] as coverage paths. Each region [or cell red.] is decomposed into sub-regions, a traveling salesman algorithm, is applied to generate a sequence of sub-regions to visit, and a coverage path is generated from this sequence that covers each subregion in turn. Huang [19] claims that turns take a significant amount of time: the robot must slow down, make the turn and accelerate. Thus by minimizing the number of turns, which are proportional to the altitude of a subregion, an optimal path can be found.



**FIGURE 3.17: DIFFERENT SWEEP DIRECTIONS [19]**

This is done by first creating an adjacency graph  $G$ , generated with the Morse function, see figure 3.14 (b). This graph is split in two  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  sub-graphs. These contain all edges from  $G$  except those that connect a node from  $G_1$  to  $G_2$ . With this definition the minimum sum of altitudes can be stated as equation 3.37. Where  $i$  iterates over all possible ways to split graph  $G$  and  $C(G)$  returns the cost of covering all cells corresponding to nodes in  $G$ , once an optimum is found, movements of the sub-regions are implemented.

Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be a subset of graph  $G$  which consist of all the nodes that needs to be visited and let  $C$  be a function that calculates the cost in movement  $S$ , which iterative over  $i$  for all possible

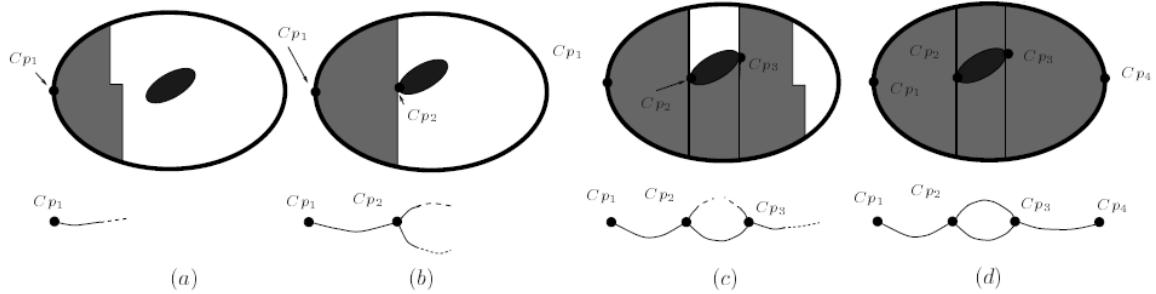
combinations of  $\mathbf{G}_1$  and  $\mathbf{G}_2$ .

$$S(\mathbf{G}) = \min \left\{ C(\mathbf{G}), \min_i S(\mathbf{G}_1^i) + S(\mathbf{G}_2^i) \right\} \quad (3.37)$$

So far it assumed that the environment is known *a priori* which labels this method as an off-line method. While the use case described in Chapter ??, dictates that the crawler encounters unknown obstacles.

### ON-LINE MORSE-BASED BOUSTROPHEDON DECOMPOSITION

Acar and Choset [20] describe a method which allows the use of above portrayed Morse-based cellular decomposition in an unknown dynamically changing environment. Critical point sensing, is a way to determine critical points based on a sweep direction and an omnidirectional range sensor. These can be detected when the sweep direction and the surface normal  $\nabla_m(x)$  of an obstacle are parallel.



**FIGURE 3.18: INCREMENTAL GRAPH CONSTRUCTION [20]**

On-line region coverage is depicted in figure 3.18 which shows an incremental sweep as part of an on-line BCD (a) The robot starts to cover the space at the critical point  $Cp_1$  and instantiates an edge in the graph. (b) When the robot is done covering the cell between  $Cp_1$  and  $Cp_2$ , it joins the nodes in the graph that correspond to  $Cp_1$  and  $Cp_2$  with an edge, and start two new edges. (c) The robot covers the cells below the obstacle and to the right of  $Cp_3$ . (d) While covering the cell above the obstacle, the robot encounters  $Cp_2$  again. Since all the critical point have explored edges, i.e., covered cells, the robot concludes that it has completely covered the space [20].

On-line detection of critical points is illustrated by Galceran and Carreras [60]. They tell how a robot detects a surface normal which is the same as a gradient. Given a robot located at point  $x$ , let  $Cp_0$  be the closest point to  $x$  on the surface of obstacle  $Cp_i$ :

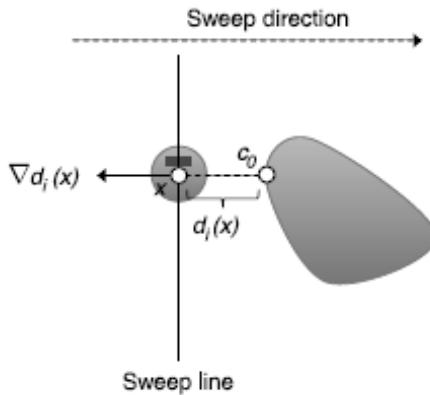
$$Cp_0 = \underset{x \in Cp_i}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|x - Cp\|, \quad (3.38)$$

and let  $d_i(x)$  be the distance between point  $x$  and the obstacle  $Cp_i$ . Now, the gradient of  $d_i(x)$ ,  $\nabla d_i(x)$  can be calculated as

$$\nabla d_i(x) = \frac{x - Cp_0}{\|x - Cp_0\|}. \quad (3.39)$$

Since a gradient is a unit vector normal to a surface at a given point and since  $Cp_0$  is a point laying on the surface  $Cp_i$ ,  $x - Cp_0$  is a vector pointing outwards, from  $Cp_0$  to  $x$ , by dividing it by its norm  $\|x - Cp_0\|$  it becomes a unit vector. This leads to the conclusion that a critical point occurs when  $\nabla d_i(x)$  is parallel to the sweep direction, as illustrated in figure 3.19.

Points are only detected from the side view. A normal sweeping motion will miss critical point that lay parallel to the sweep direction. This can be counteracted with a Cyclic path. It's important to note

**FIGURE 3.19: CRITICAL POINT DETECTING [60]**

that such a path will be longer then a normal zig-zag sweep, since it includes backtracking. A cyclic path starts forward

Cyclic path start by moving the robot in a forward phase, when it hits the boundary, it begins moves downwards. When an obstacles is encounter during its travels it changes it state into a wall following unit, until reaching the next boundary in front of him or detects an critical point. If the later one is the case, it starts moving upward again. If an obstacles detected during this cycle it will follow that wall until a critical point is detected. It then marks it as a new next strip or cell boundary and moves back, towards the point where it ended its initial upward movement. It now starts filling the cell with general zig-zag sweeps. This incremental construct of the Morse decomposition on-line is stored as Reeb graph. Such a graph has the same functionality as a adjacency graph

The BCD sweep in given in figure 3.18 suggest that the robot will know that it has covered the whole region when it moves from  $Cp_3$  to  $Cp_2$ . But this will require an absolute coördination system that tells the robot that  $Cp_2$  is the same node as the one it encountered when moving from  $Cp_1$  to  $Cp_2$ ; This is error prone because of the accumulated error during dead-reckoning navigation.

### MORSE-BASED CELLULAR DECOMPOSITION COMBINED WITH VORONOI-DIAGRAM

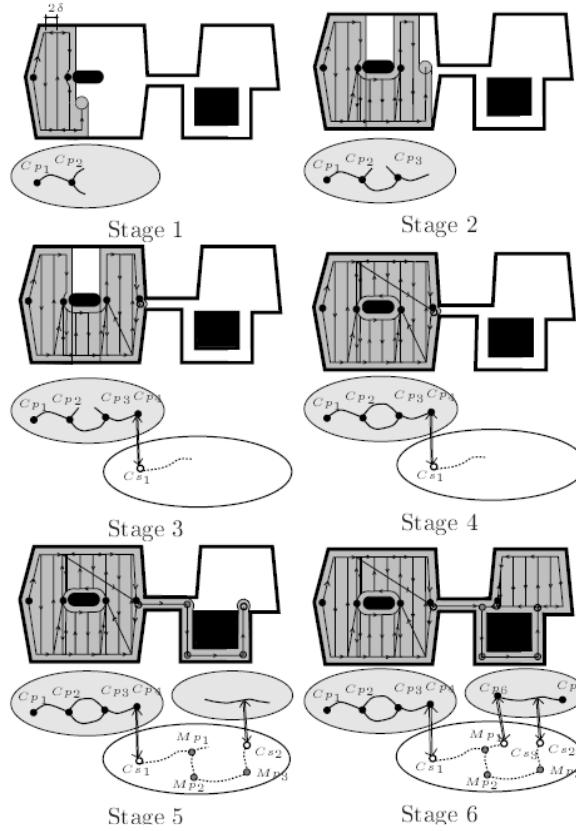
The above described on-line Morse-based Boustrophedon Cellular Decomposition (BCD) handles unknown vast environments pretty well. It does so by making use of it sensors. Most work that describe BCD either assume the detector range of the sensor is infinite in size or the same size as the robot. Acar, Choset, and Atkar [17] shows how a detector range of an sensor can be utilized which is  $r < \delta_s < \infty$  here  $r$  which is radius given in [m] and  $\delta_s$  which is range of a sensor-detector-range given in [m].

Morse-based cellular decomposition combined with Generalized Voronoi Diagram (GVD) describe how this can be exploited to find an optimum coverage pad for a space which consists of vast-cell which, is a cell located in a vast open space, and narrow-cell which, is a cell is located in a narrow space, bound between multiple walls,. Such that the robot handles both vast and cluttered regions well. See figure 3.20, for such an environment.

The robot has two modus operandi that perform coverage of an unknown space, consisting of vast and cluttered regions. In a vast open space the robot scans an unknown environment for critical points as described in sub section 3.4.1. In such an environment it uses a zig-zag motion with an offset of  $2\delta_s$ . It is important to note that the coverage of a suction head from a dredge bot will in all likelihood be less than  $2\delta_s$ . During coverage of this VAST-cell it will construct an adjacency graph from every critical point. Once it encounters a cusp-point which, is are points where its surface normal of the boundary of the free configuration space is non-smooth,, it builds a GVD with corresponding nodes. Such a point is an indication of the presence of a NARROW-cell.

This newly placed node on the GVD represents a new NARROW-cell with a width less the  $2\delta_s$ . It continues to traverse in the NARROW-cell till it encounters additional cusp point, constructing a GVD. During this stage the sensor can be seen as a sensor with  $\infty$  range. Once it tracks the wall of the second VAST-cell it knows it is in a vast environment, since no second boundary is detected and slips into its initial modus.

Figure 3.20 depicts the stages of the incremental construction of the hierarchical decomposition while the robot is covering the space. The graphs depicted in the gray ellipses depict the VAST-cells that contain VAST-subcells represented as solid edges. Each VAST-subcell has to associated critical points represented as black dots. NARROW-cells is represented by the white ellipse and it contains



**FIGURE 3.20: STAGES OF INCREMENTAL CONSTRUCTION [17]**

the NARROW-subcells depicted as dashed edges. Hollow dots correspond to cusp points and gray dots represent the meet points. The double arrows show the links between NARROW-cells and their neighboring VAST-cells.

### 3.4.2 LANDMARK-BASED TOPOLOGICAL COVERAGE

The above described Morse-based algorithms create cell boundaries based on the detection of critical points, these points are detected via side faced range sensors, with the use of wall following. Morse-based algorithms cannot handle rectilinear environments, due to the fact that critical points are degenerate in this environment. Landmark-based topological coverage algorithm also use the BCD, but cell boundaries are determined by using topological landmarks.

Topological maps are robust against sensor and odometry errors because only a global topological consistency, rather than a metric one, needs to be maintained. Thrun [10] states that this type of map does not require accurate determination of the robot's position. Although this low resolution is also the reason why it is difficult to use them for coverage path planning. A node in a topological map is a landmark and does not correspond to a precise position or area in space. This makes it difficult to mark covered regions [32].

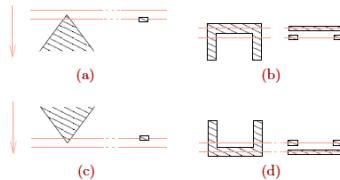
### SLICE DECOMPOSITION

Slice decomposition makes use of simpler landmarks. Galceran and Carreras [60] states that it can handle a large variety of environments including ones with polygonal, elliptical and rectilinear obstacles. Moreover obstacles can be detected from all sides of the robot, allowing a simpler zig-zag pattern without retracting to be used. As a result the generated coverage path is shorter.

Slice decomposition determines cell boundaries when it sees a abrupt change in the topology between segments in consecutive slices, each slice is a sensor sweep line where the  $\delta_{sx}$  is moved to the next time step. Wong and MacDonald states that there are two situations where the abrupt changes occurs:

1. A segment in the previous slice is split by the emergence of a new segment, see figure 3.21 (a) and (b).

2. A segment from the previous slice disappears in the current slice, see figure 3.21 (c) and (d).



**FIGURE 3.21: (a) SPLITTING OF SEGMENTS (b) MERGING OF SEGMENTS [26]**

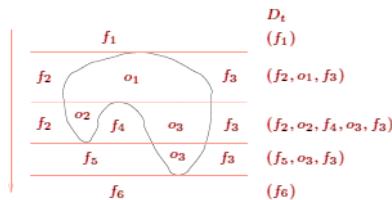
### LISTING 3.1: OFF-LINE SLICE DECOMPOSITION

```

1: procedure SliceDecomposition
2:    $c \in \{FreeSpaceCell, ObstacleCell\}$ 
3:   for all time  $t$  do
4:     Move sweep line downwards by  $\Delta x$ 
5:      $D_{l,t-1} = (\dots, c_{i-2}, c_{i-1}, c_i, c_{i+1}, c_{i+2}, \dots)$ 
6:     for all segments in  $D_{l,t-1}$  do
7:       if emergence inside  $c_i$  then
8:          $(c_i) \leftarrow (c_{e-1}, c_e, c_{e+1})$ 
9:          $D_{l,t} = (\dots, c_{i-2}, c_{i-1}, c_{e-1}, c_e, c_{e+1}, c_{i+1}, c_{i+2}, \dots)$ 
10:      end if
11:      if  $c_i$  disappears then
12:         $(c_{i-1}, c_i, c_{i+1}) \leftarrow (c_d)$ 
13:         $D_{l,t} = (\dots, c_{i-2}, c_d, c_{i+2}, \dots)$ 
14:      end if
15:    end for
16:   end for
17: end procedure

```

The slice decomposition is formed by maintaining a list  $D_{l,t}$ , which consist of active obstacles and free space cells. This list is created via algorithm 3.1. This algorithm consist of two loops. The first one moves the sweep line, while the second one inspects segments and acts if there is a change in situation. At this time it updates the list  $D_{l,t}$  marking it landmark. This algorithm does not take into account “line of sight”. The author of this paper states that disappearance of segment can only be measured from hindsight. Thus backtracking will still be an issue.



**FIGURE 3.22: SLICE DECOMPOSITION GENERATED BY ALGORITHM 3.1 [26]**

Wong [32] recognizes the limitations of slice decomposition and proposes a new method “slice decomposition II”. This is because a robot cannot move inside obstacles, which means that the sweep line is limited to the cell that the robot is in [32]. There are five events that occur during slice decomposition II, as are depicted in figure 3.23. Wong proposes the following events to be used during the on-line algorithm 3.2. If the robot is tethered, for instance with an umbilical, not every cell can be reached. The restrictions created by this tether can be view as a change of the boundary of the environment.

ACTION	DESCRIPTION
SPLIT	Free space segment in the previous slice is split into two by the emergence of an obstacle. This is equivalent to obstacle segment emergence in normal Slice Decomposition.

MERGE	Free space segment in the current slice neighbors free spaces other than the free space segment in the previous slice in the direction of the previous slice. This is equivalent to obstacle segment disappearance in normal slice decomposition.
END	The previous free space segment is the final one in the current cell. This is equivalent to free space segment disappearance in the normal version.
LENGTHEN	Free space segment in the current slice neighbors an obstacle segment in addition to the free space segment in the previous slice in the direction of the previous slice. Another way to view this situation is that the current slice is much longer than the previous slice.
SHORTEN	Free space segment in the previous slice neighbors an obstacle segment in addition to the free space segment in the current slice in the direction of the current slice. Another way to view this situation is that the current slice is much shorter than the previous slice.

### LISTING 3.2: OFF-LINE SLICE DECOMPOSITION II

```

1: procedure SliceDecompositionII
2:    $O \leftarrow$  initial cell
3:    $F \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
4:   while  $O \neq \emptyset$  do
5:      $f_c \leftarrow f \in O$ 
6:     move to on (of two) cell boundary of  $f_c$ 
7:     repeat
8:       move sweep line by  $\Delta x$  towards the opposite cell boundary
9:       if event occur then
10:         $F \leftarrow F + f_c$ 
11:         $O \leftarrow O - f_c$ 
12:        if event = split or merge then
13:           $O \leftarrow O + f_{c+1}, f_{c+2}$  if  $f_{c+1}, f_{c+2} \notin (O \cup F)$ 
14:        end if
15:        if event = lengthen or shorten then
16:           $O \leftarrow O + f_{c+1}$  if  $f_{c+1} \notin (O \cup F)$ 
17:        end if
18:      end if
19:      until event occur
20:    end while
21: end procedure

```

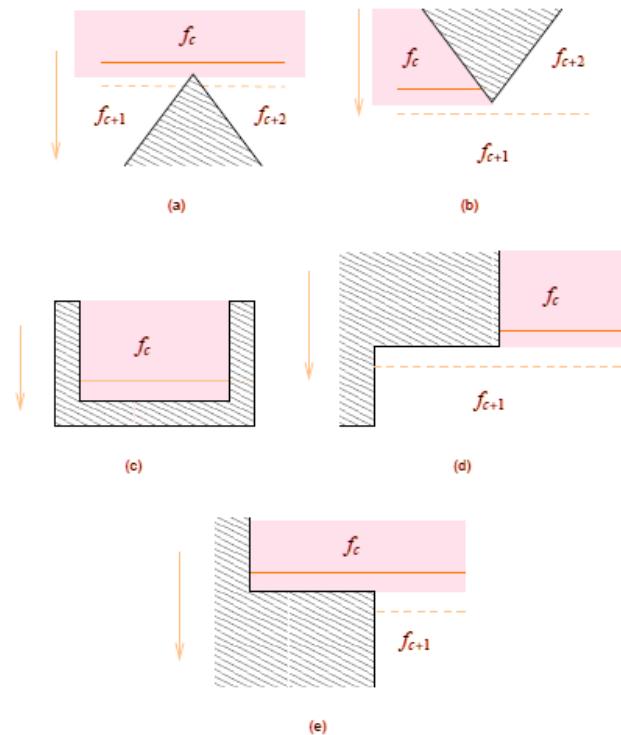
### ON-LINE TOPOLOGICAL COVERAGE ALGORITHM

By using slice decomposition II, which is described in Section 3.4.2, with a topological map. A crawler can construct it on-line. It now allows in to perform its task in a unknown environment. The topological map embeds the slice decomposition of an environment by using events as nodes. The map is updated whenever relevant information becomes available. The path planner generates a new path un each update, based on the new partial topological map [32].

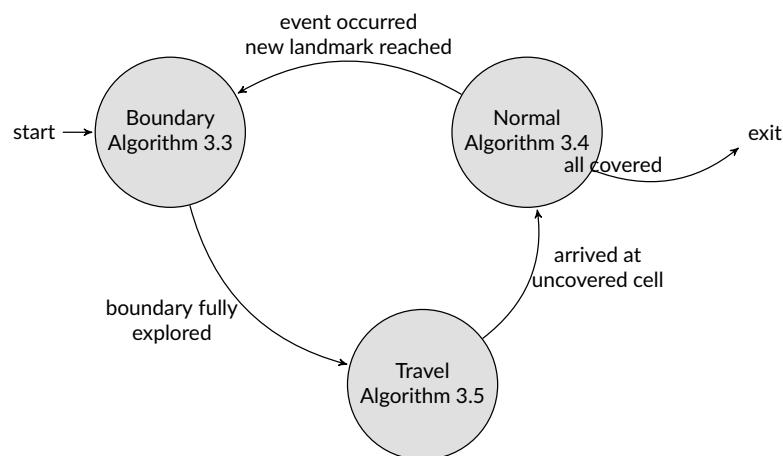
This topological map is represented as a planar graph, where the nodes represent landmarks (i.e., split, merge, end, lengthen or shorten, such as depicted in figure 3.23) and edges indicate the types of motion required to travel between nodes they are incident upon. For example, whether the edge is next to a wall and which side the wall is on. They also store estimated distances separating the two nodes they connect [55].

This topological coverage algorithm makes use of a state transition diagram 3.24. In this diagram three states are described, each with corresponding algorithm (3.3, 3.4 and 3.5). The crawler is assumed to be placed in a corner near a wall, therefore the boundary state is considered as entry point.

The crawler starts in the *boundary* state by executing algorithm 3.3. During this state the crawler performs a wall following algorithm. When it finds a landmark or it arrives at the end of a strip, it



**FIGURE 3.23: (a) SPLIT, (b) MERGE, (c) END, (d) LENGTHEN, (e) SHORTEN**



**FIGURE 3.24: STATE TRANSITIONS FOR TOPOLOGICAL COVERAGE ALGORITHM**

updates graph  $G$ . When it is at the end of a strip and the boundary is fully explored it gets in to the state travel, described in algorithm 3.5, otherwise it turns around and continues in the boundary state.

**LISTING 3.3: BOUNDARY STATE**

```

1: procedure BoundaryState
2:   loop
3:     move forward along boundary
4:     if at landmark then
5:       update G
6:     end if
7:     if arrive at end of strip then
8:       update G
9:       if boundary fully explored then
10:        state  $\leftarrow$  travel
11:       else
12:         turn around 180°
13:       end if
14:     end if
15:   end loop
16: end procedure

```

Once in the *travel* state, the path is generated that moves the crawler from one cell to another, it does so by implementing line 5 and 6 from algorithm 3.2 described at page 31. Algorithm 3.5 is executed in this state. Once it arrives at an cell its operation state becomes *normal*. A normal boustrphedon zig-zag movement is followed in this state.

**LISTING 3.4: NORMAL STATE**

```

1: procedure NormalState
2:   repeat
3:     follow zigzag pattern
4:   until at landmark
5:   update G
6:   state  $\leftarrow$  boundary
7: end procedure

```

**LISTING 3.5: TRAVEL STATE**

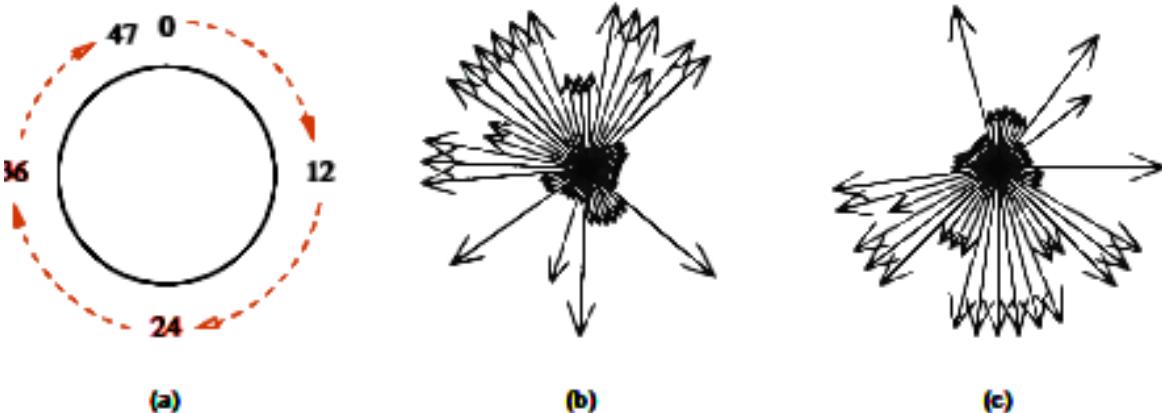
```

1: procedure TravelState
2:    $T(n) \leftarrow$  search  $G$ 
3:   if  $T(n) = \emptyset$  then
4:     exit algorithm
5:   end if
6:   while  $T(n) \neq \emptyset$  do
7:     move towards  $T(0)$ 
8:     if at  $T(0)$  then  $T(n) \leftarrow T(n) - T(0)$ 
9:     end if
10:    end while
11:    state  $\leftarrow$  normal
12: end procedure

```

## LANDMARK RECOGNITION USING NEURAL NETWORKS

Wong [32] proposes a novel idea to classify landmarks using Neural Networks. These are classification algorithms which approximates the operations of a human brain. Wong build a test robot with a 360° rotatable single-beam sonar. Each scan consists of 48 individual sonar-beams taken over a range of 360°. This vector is made independent of orientation, by virtually rotating it so that index 0 would always point towards the direction where the sonar range measured the shortest distance, as depicted in figure 3.25.

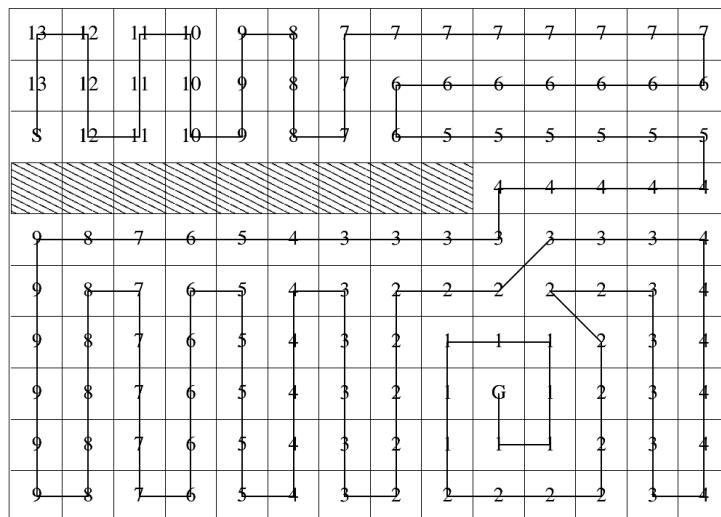


**FIGURE 3.25: ROTATION OF SONAR READING TO MOST OCCUPIED DIRECTION [32]**

This vector is fed into a Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP) which distinguishes three different type of classes: free space nodes, obstacle nodes and everything else. This neural network first has to be taught. This is done under supervision, meaning that the landmark type have to be predefined.

### 3.4.3 GRID-BASED METHODS

Grid-based methods divide the working area into a raster of uniform grid cells. Each cell has an associated value stating whether an obstacles is present or if it is rather free space. The value can either be binary or a probability [67]. These grid cells are typically square in shape, but it is not uncommon to use triangle shaped cell. The size of the cell usually corresponds with the size of a crawler.



**FIGURE 3.26: COVERAGE PATH GENERATED FROM A DISTANCE TRANSFORM [32]**

Once the environment is mapped onto an uniform grid. An optimal coverage path can be found using the by Choset and Pignon [8] proposed method, whom uses a conventional wave-front algorithm (distance transform) to determine a coverage path. First a start and goal cell has to be assigned. The wave-front algorithm initially assigns a 0 to the goal and then a 1 to all surrounding [red. reachable] cells. Then all the unmarked cells neighboring the marked 1 are then labeled with a 2. This process

repeats until the wave-front crosses the start. Once this occurs, the robot can use gradient descent on this numeric potential function to find a path [18]. This results of algorithm 3.6 is shown in figure 3.26.

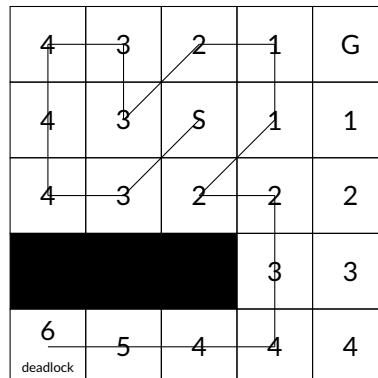
#### LISTING 3.6: OFF-LINE GRID-BASED COMPLETE COVERAGE

```

1: procedure GridBasedCompleteCoverage
2:   Set start cell to current cell
3:   Set all cells to NOT visited
4:   loop
5:     Find unvisited neighboring cell with highest value
6:     if NO unvisited neighboring cell found then
7:       Mark current cell as visited
8:       Exit procedure                                ▷ Goal reached
9:     end if
10:    if unvisited neighboring cell value ≤ current cell value then
11:      Mark current cell as visited
12:      Exit procedure                                ▷ Goal reached
13:    end if
14:    Set current cell to neighboring cell          ▷ Move to next cell
15:  end loop
16: end procedure

```

The author states an optimal placement of the start and goal cell is paramount. The algorithm 3.6 does not take into account a deadlock state. Which is illustrated in figure 3.27. In this figure goal and start cell are arbitrarily placed. Execution of the algorithm ensures that the dredge bot is stuck at the farthest cell. Where it remains, if no backtracking over previous visited cells is allowed.

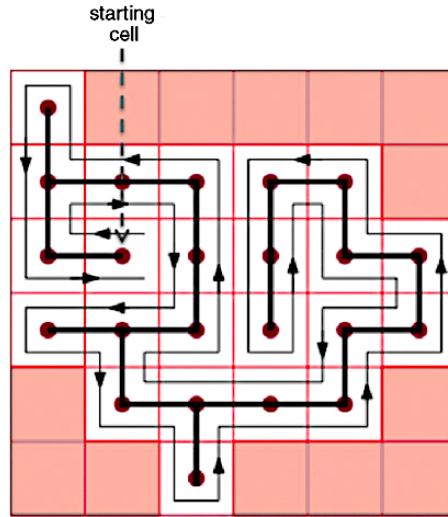


**FIGURE 3.27: DEADLOCK STATE DUE TO INCORRECT STARTING POINT**

#### GRID-BASED COVERAGE USING SPANNING TREES

An sub-family of grid-based coverage are systematic spiral paths algorithms. These work by following a systematic spiral spanning tree of a partial grid map. This map is constructed using its on-board sensors [67] and uses two different sizes of grid cells. The smaller grid cell is the same size as the robot. Four of these grid cells then form a mega cell. [32]. The Spiral Spanning Tree Coverage (Spiral-STC) described in algorithm 3.7, works as follows:

Starting at the current cell, the robot chooses a new travel direction by selecting the first new mega cell in the free space in anti-clockwise direction. Then, a new spanning-tree edge is grown from the current mega cell to the new one. The algorithm is called recursively. The recursion stops only when the current cell has no new neighbors. A mega cell is considered old if at least one of its four smaller cells is covered. As a result of this recursion, the robot moves along one side of the spanning tree until it reaches the end of the tree. At this point, the robot turns around to traverse the other side of the tree [67].



**FIGURE 3.28: COVERAGE PATH GENERATED WITH THE SPIRAL-STC ALGORITHM [60].**

#### LISTING 3.7: SPIRAL SPANNING TREE COVERAGE

```

1: procedure SpiralSpanningTreeCoverage( w,x )
2:   Mark the current cell x as old
3:   while x has new obstacle-free-4-neighbour cell do
4:     Scan for the first new neighbour of x in anti-clockwise order, starting with the
       parent cell w Call this neighbour y
5:     Construct a spanning-tree edge from x to y .
6:     Move to a subcell of y by following the right-side of the spanning tree edges
7:     Execute SpiralSpanningTreeCoverage(x,y).
8:   end while
9:   if x ≠ startcell then
10:    Move back from x to a subcell of w along the right-side of the spanning tree edges.
11:   end if
12: end procedure

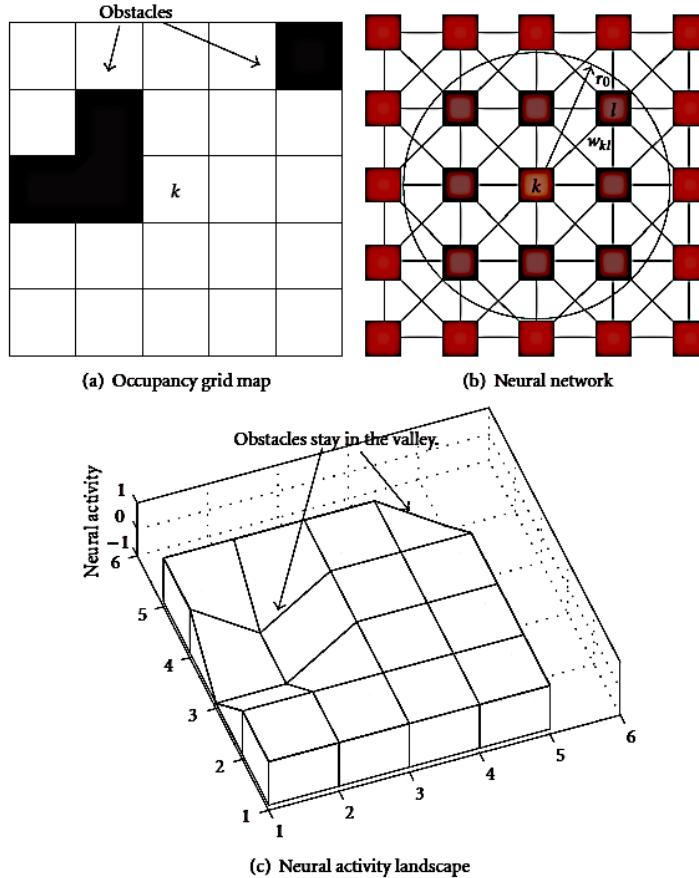
```

Wong [32] and Lee, Baek, Choi, *et al.* [50] states the path can be optimized by using smaller grid cells, however because accurate maneuverability is often an issue, a higher resolution is not the best approached. Lee, Baek, Choi, *et al.* proposes a new method for Spiral-STC by limiting the number of turns, decelerations and accelerations. Mei, Lu, Hu, *et al.* [25] determined by analytically comparing energy efficiency of different coverage algorithm that sharp turns bring about inefficiency. Thus by limiting these, an energy efficient path can be generated. Since the dredge bot will be powered by an external land-based source, this option won't be further explored.

#### NEURAL NETWORK-BASED COVERAGE ON GRID MAPS

Luo, Yang, Stacey, *et al.* [22] proposes a model capable of planning a real-time path; Which covers every area, in the vicinity of obstacles, to a reasonably extent. A crawlers path is autonomously generated through a dynamic neural activity landscape [22][39]. Luo, Yang, Stacey, *et al.* discretized a 2D space in a grid map where the diagonal length of each grid cell is equal to the robot sweeping radius and then a neuron is associated to each and every grid cell. Each neuron has connections to its immediate 8 neighbors [60]. This architecture is illustrated in figure 3.29.

The proposed neural network, is topologically expressed on a 2-dimensional occupancy grid map. The location of the *k*th neuron of the neural network represent a location (cell). Where each neuron has local lateral connections to its neighboring neurons, in the small region  $[0, r_0]$ ; Where  $r_0$  which is the receptive field radius of the *k*th neuron given in [m] is the receptive field radius of the *k*th neuron, as shown in figure 3.29 (b). The excitatory input results from uncovered area and lateral neural



**FIGURE 3.29: ARCHITECTURE OF A NEURODYNAMICS MODEL [58]**

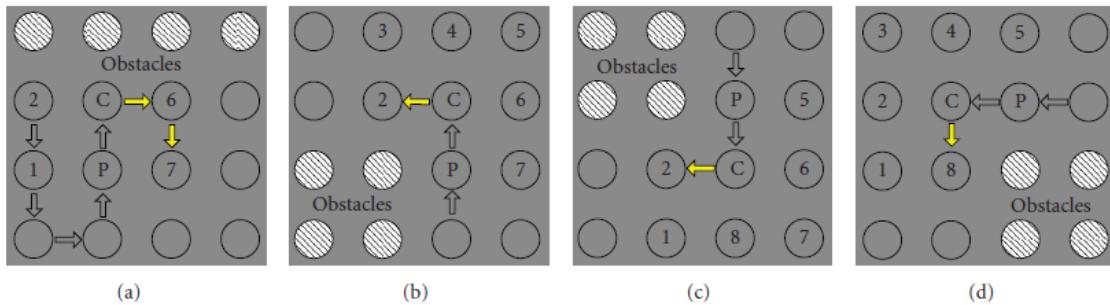
connections, while inhibitory inputs, results from obstacles [58]. The shunting equation 3.40 derived from Hodgkin and Huxley [1] determines the dynamics of each neuron in the network.

$$\frac{dx_k}{dt} = -Ax_k + (B - x_k) \left( [I_k]^+ + \sum_{l=1}^m w_{kl} [n_{a,l}]^+ \right) - (D + x_i) [I_i]^- \quad (3.40)$$

Equation 3.40 consist of the following terms:  $x_k$  is the  $k$ th neuron in the neural network, while  $A, B$  and  $D$  are non negative constants describing the passive decay rate, and the upper and lower bounds of the neural activity. The terms  $[I_k]^+ + \sum_{l=1}^m w_{kl} [n_{a,l}]^+$  are the excitatory inputs while  $[I_i]^-$  is the inhibitor. These are linear-above and below thresholds defined as  $[a]^+ = \max\{a, 0\}$  and  $[a]^- = \max\{-a, 0\}$ . The connection weight is given by  $w_{kl}$  which is assigned between the  $k$ th and the  $l$ th neuron, which is given by  $w_{kl} = f(|q_k - q_l|)$ , where  $|q_k - q_l|$  is the Euclidean distance between vectors  $q_k$  and  $q_l$  in the state space, and  $f(d)$ is a monotonically decreasing function defined as

$$f(d) = \begin{cases} \frac{\mu}{d}, & 0 \leq d < r_0 \\ 0, & d \geq r_0 \end{cases} \quad (3.41)$$

Where  $\mu$  and  $r_0$  are positive constants, The external input  $I_k$  to the  $k$ th neuron is defined in equation 3.42. In this equation  $E$  is a large constant.



**FIGURE 3.30: Four predefined templates. Source: Yan, Zhu, and Yang [58]**

$$I_k = \begin{cases} E, & \text{if it is an uncovered area} \\ -E, & \text{if it is an obstacle area} \\ 0, & \text{if it is a covered area} \end{cases} \quad (3.42)$$

By properly defining the external inputs from the changing environment and internal neural connections, the unclean areas and obstacles are guaranteed to stay at the peak and the valley of the activity landscape of the neural network, respectively. The unclean areas globally attract the robot in the whole workspace through neural activity propagation, while the obstacles have only local effect in a small region to avoid collisions. The collision-free robot motion is planned in real time based on the dynamic activity landscape of the neural network and the previous robot position, such that all areas will be cleaned and the robot will travel along a smooth zigzag path [39]. An advantage of this method is that can handle non stationary environments (i.e., dynamically changing obstacles) [60].

Yan, Zhu, and Yang further states that if there are power and time limitations, the crawler should travel the path with the least revisited areas and the least turns of moving directions. Therefore, for a given current crawler location at time  $k$ , denoted by  $\vec{p}_k$ , the next crawler location at time  $k+1$ ,  $\vec{p}_{k+1}$  is obtained by equation 3.43. Where  $c$  is a positive constant and  $m_n$  is the number of neighbouring neurons of the  $\vec{p}_k$  neuron, that is all the possible locations of the current location  $\vec{p}_k$ ; variable  $n_{a,l}$  is the neural activity of the  $l$ th neuron, which is the same as in equation 3.40;  $y_l$  is a monotonically increasing function of the difference between the next crawler moving directions, defined in equation 3.44.

$$\vec{p}_{k+1} \leftarrow x_{\vec{p}_k} = \max\{n_{a,l} + c y_l, l = 1, 2, \dots, m\} \quad (3.43)$$

Where  $\Delta\Psi_l \in [0, \pi]$  is the turning angle between the current moving direction and the next moving direction. Here  $\Delta\Psi_l = 0$  is straight ahead, while  $\Delta\Psi_l = \pi$  stands for a backwards movement [58]. This would indicated that the crawler only has the ability to turn either left or right depending on the convention place on  $\Delta\Psi_l$ . By defining it as  $\Delta\Psi_l \in [-\pi, \pi]$ , the crawler has a full turning range. Thus  $\Delta\Psi_l = \Psi_l - \Psi_c = |a \tan 2(y_{p_l} - y_{p_c}, x_{p_l} - x_{p_c}) - a \tan 2(y_{p_c} - y_{p_p}, x_{p_c} - x_{p_p})|$

$$y_l = 1 - \frac{\Delta\Psi_l}{\pi} \quad (3.44)$$

According to Yan, Zhu, and Yang [58] path planning in the vicinity of some unstructured obstacles may cause overlap, resulting in additional turns, which translates in a higher energy consumption and additional time [50][72][25]. They propose the use of four predefined tables as shown in figure 3.30. These predefined templates are effective to deal with the vicinity situation of unstructured obstacles and enable the crawler to plan a more reasonable path with less overlapping areas.

Grid based neural networks methods lend themselves to be easily integrated with map building. Yan, Zhu, and Yang [58] describes how the sensor model can be used to build an on-line map of the

environment where the is used to filter out uncertainties of the sensor.

# 4 CHAPTER CONTROLLER DESIGN

## 4.1 CRAWLER

## 4.2 STRATEGY DECISION

	onBCD	BCD-GVD	topBCD	onSD2	onSD2NN	STC	SSTC	NN
online	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	1 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2
time	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	1 ± 0.4	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2
energy eff.	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	1 ± 0.4	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2	5 ± 0.2
revisits	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2
complexity	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2
adaptivity	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2
TRL	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2
maintainability	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2
integration	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2
legislation	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2
environment	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2	0 ± 0.2

## 4.3 PERIPHERALS

### 4.3.1 COMMUNICATION

WIRELESS

UMBILICAL

### 4.3.2 LOCALIZATION

IMU SENSOR

DEPTH SENSOR

SATELLITE DRONES

### 4.3.3 PROPULSION SENSORS

### 4.3.4 PRODUCTION SENSORS

sec:production sensors

## 4.4 KALMAN FILTER DESIGN

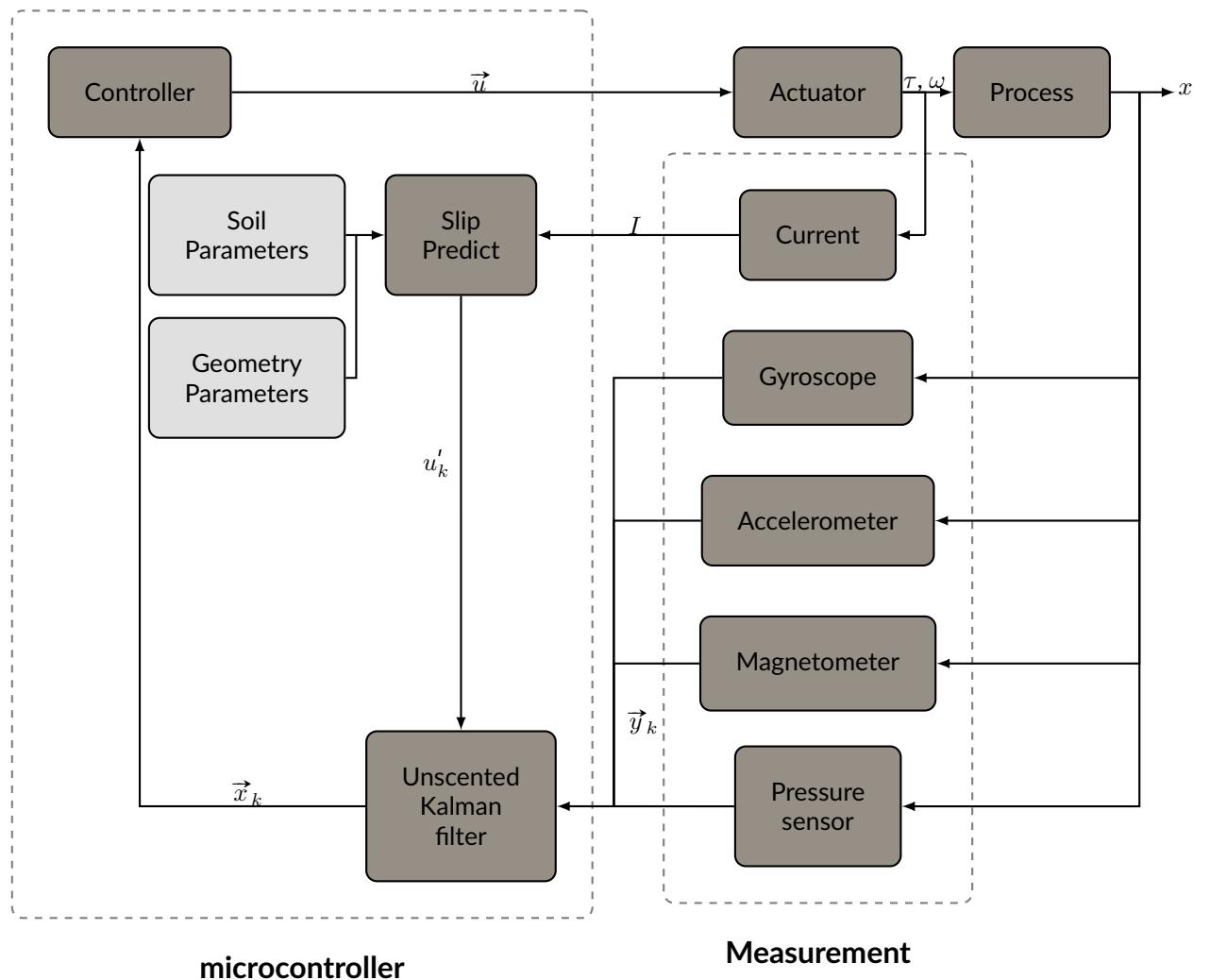
In Chapter 3.4 it became evident that an accurate estimation of a crawlers position and heading is needed such that it can perform its tasks using CPP algorithms. Because it is not possible to use GPS in an underwater environment, due to the dampening of electric and magnetic fields in water, which was described in Section 3.1.2, an alternative localization method had to be found. Chapter 3.3

describes Kalman filter as the industry de-facto. Position estimation for the control will therefore be performed with this algorithm.

A design for an Kalman filter is proposed, using a common array of sensors, such as: accelerometer, gyroscope, magnetometer and a pressure sensor. The workings for each of these are discussed Section 3.2 and the component selection was made in Section 4.2. The crawler is actuated by, changing the rotational speed of the individual Archimedes screws.

Where the speed of an Archimedes screw driven crawler is a direct function of the pitch of its vanes. But this only applies if there is no horizontal soil failure under the screws. Such a phenomena is called slip. It consist of a period in time where the screws turn, but generate no forwarding force. Leading to an inaccurate estimation for the new predicted state. Due to the geometry of an Archimedes screw, this slip coexist with an bulldozer effect created by the vanes acting as a shovel in the soil. This will lead to an increase in torque. It is proposed that by measuring the required torque of the drive train, a prediction can be made how much slip has occurred, leading to a better estimation of the future state-vector  $\vec{x}_{k+1}$ . This behavior and the mathematical model will be discussed in more detail in Section 4.4.2. Figure 4.1 shows the interaction and connectivity of the various components that server as the input and output of the proposed filter.

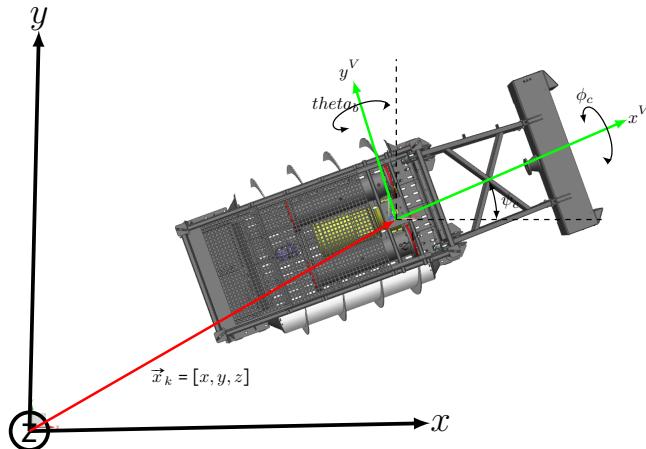
Since the physical processes for movement of a crawler are non-linear and the “basic” Kalman filter, described in Section 3.3.2 is limited to linear assumptions, the proposed Kalman filter is of the Unscented variant. The Unscented Kalman Filter (UKF) uses a deterministic sampling technique known as Unscented Transformation (UT). This technique picks a minimal set of sample points, also known as sigma points, around the mean. The sigma points are then propagated through the non-linear function, from which a new mean and covariance estimate are then formed.



**FIGURE 4.1: PROPOSED KALMAN FILTER**

#### 4.4.1 STATE REPRESENTATION

Bahr, Leonard, and Fallon [41] states that, the most generic case of a vehicle operating in 3D Euler-space, such as a crawler, consist of a vector of variables comprised of a vehicle's pose and orientation. The pose is its position in a (global) reference frame  $[x \ y \ z]^T$ . While its orientation is given in Euler angles  $[\phi_c \ \psi_c \ \theta_c]^T$ . The pose vector at time  $t$  is then  $\vec{x}_k = [x \ y \ z \ \phi_c \ \psi_c \ \theta_c]^T$ , which will be denoted as  $\vec{x}_k$  for the remainder of this paper. Beside the pose, the state vector can also contain the first and second derivatives of the pose vector.



**FIGURE 4.2: STATE REPRESENTATION**

#### 2D OR 3D

Bahr, Leonard, and Fallon [41] proposes the following simplification; They state that all submersible vehicles are outfitted with a pressure sensor which allows them to determine their absolute depth with high accuracy and a high update rate. As a result all underwater navigation systems are only used to resolve the 2D position and all underwater vehicle related localization problems are stated in 2D. Which allows for a simplified state vector  $\vec{x}_k = [x \ y \ \phi_c \ \psi_c \ \theta_c]^T$ .

This simplification does not hold for crawlers or AUV that change in depth in any other direction than collinear with the earths gravitational axis. Since this crawler moves over irregular terrain, any pitch or roll will result in a gravitational force that also consist of components along the x-axis and / or y-axis. Which would then be interpreted as movements in the 2D x-y space. This coupled with an unreliable pressure-sensor reading due to disturbance of sediment from the sea bed during dredging operations, as described in Section 3.2.1, means the the state representation should be in 3D Euler space, as is shown in figure 4.4.1.

#### QUATERNIONS

Because the UKF is run on a embedded device, with limited resources, all rotational translations are calculated with the help of quaternions. Which make use of the same concept as complex numbers, except of using one imaginary axis, there are three. Just as complex numbers are very useful in describing a rotation in a two-dimensional plane, quaternions are highly efficient in a three-dimensional space. They are also immune to gimbal locking. The exact workings are outside of the scope of this thesis, but for those readers which are interested, a good explanation is given by 3blue1brown\_\gls{gls-quaternion}s\_2018 3blue1brown\_\gls{gls-quaternion}s\_2018 and can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4EgbgTmOBg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4EgbgTmOBg). A quaternions is represented as a single column matrix with four rows, consisting of a magnitude and three components for the axes  $\vec{q} = [q_s \ q_x \ q_y \ q_z]^T$ , Where the  $q_s$  is used to normalize the quaternion, this keeps the error from accumulating. It is important to note that quaternions are non-commutative, thus the order in which they are applied matters to the outcome of the rotation.

#### 4.4.2 MOTION MODEL

It is important to evaluate the effects of control inputs  $\vec{u}_k$  on the pose vector  $\vec{p}_k = [x, y, z]^T$  such that  $\vec{p}_{k+1}$  can be predicted. Since the continuous-time model for the vehicle state's speed and rate can be described as:

$$\vec{p}_{k+1} = f(\vec{x}_k, \vec{u}_k) \quad (4.1)$$

The function  $f(\cdot)$  in equation 4.1 can be very complex and is usually non-linear, it has to take into account all external forces that can influence the movement of the crawler. According to Bahr, Leonard, and Fallon [41] the more complex the model, the more accurately it can represent the vehicle dynamics and provide a better prediction of the future pose, but obtaining such a model requires detailed knowledge of the structure as well as the parameters listed below. All of which influence movement and sensor reading:

- Shape of the crawler<sup>12</sup>
- Size of the crawler<sup>12</sup>
- Weight of the crawler<sup>12</sup>
- Buoyancy of the crawler<sup>12</sup>
- Actuators (pumps, motors etc.) and their behavior, such as vibrations
- Forces exerted on the crawler due to fluid transportation through the floating line
- Forces exerted on the crawler due to the buoyancy of the floating line
- Forces exerted on the crawler from the umbilical
- Operating environment
  - Properties of the soil bed [43];<sup>2</sup>
    - \* Density<sup>2</sup>
    - \* Cohesion<sup>2</sup>
    - \* Skin friction<sup>2</sup>
  - Temperature
  - Salinity
  - Current
  - Medium through which maneuver (mixture of water and soil)
- Configuration of the propulsion system:
  - Track variant<sup>2</sup> [43]
    - \* Length<sup>12</sup>
    - \* Distance between grouser plates<sup>12</sup>
    - \* Width of the track<sup>12</sup>
    - \* Height of the grouser plate<sup>12</sup>
  - Archimedes screw variant<sup>2</sup> [44]
    - \* Length<sup>12</sup>
    - \* Diameter<sup>12</sup>
    - \* Submerged Weight Range (SWR)<sup>12</sup>
    - \* Number of helices<sup>12</sup>
    - \* Pitch angle<sup>12</sup>
    - \* Vane height<sup>12</sup>
    - \* Front bulldozer angel<sup>12</sup>
    - \* slip<sup>2</sup>

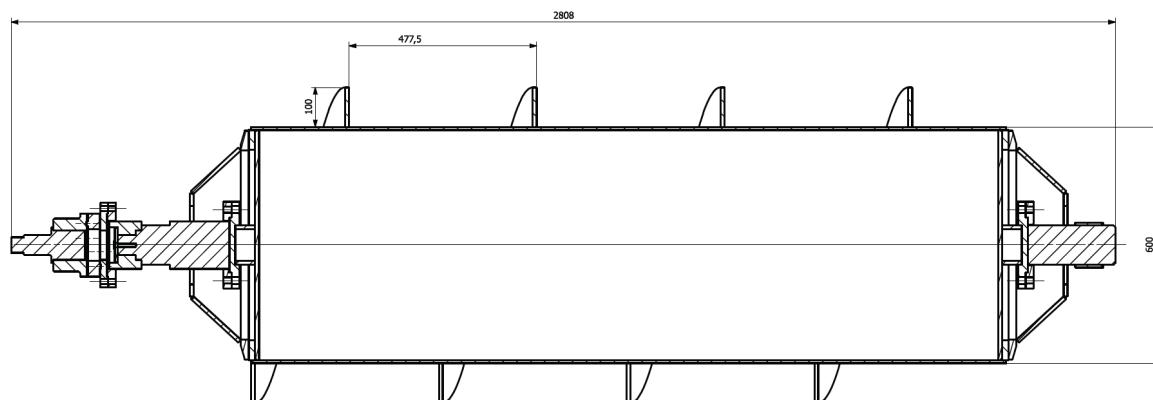
<sup>1</sup> Constant parameter

<sup>2</sup> Used in the model

Not all parameters shown above, have the same impact on the future state representation. Since calculations on a complex model require more processing power, only parameters with a substantial influence will be used. It is assumed that the biggest influences are drag-forces, due to movement in a fluidium and the interaction with the Archimedes screw in the silt layer. These will in all likelihood have a bigger impact than other operating parameters. Forces exerted on the crawler due to a current, floating lines, and actuators are — for now — deemed to be a magnitude smaller and can be ignored.

### TRAVEL SPEED

During travel between two points, it is preferred to minimize travel time. Which is usually achieved by moving at the fastest sustainable speed. The propulsion system which acts on the submerged soil bed is governed by a lot of interactions on the system as a whole. Which were listed in section 4.4.2. The crawler is propelled by an Archimedes screw. A proven technology for land based vehicles. Especially in rough, impassable terrain. They have shown reliable operations, superior traction capabilities and they can be used as a buoyancy body. Typical working territories for Archimedes driven are dredge deposit sites and swamps Lotman and Grima [51].



**FIGURE 4.3: ARCHIMEDES DRIVE TRAIN**

## 4.5 CONTROLLER

### 4.5.1 THE WORLD

### 4.5.2 A VESSEL

### 4.5.3 THE CAPTAIN

### 4.5.4 THE NAVIGATOR

### 4.5.5 A BOATSWAIN

The boatswain is responsible for execution of the different tasks. A crawler has four states of operation, namely: normal travel, dredging coverage travel, stationary dredging and standstill. These, and their transitions are depicted in diagram 4.4. These state dictate the maximum travel speed  $\vec{x}_k$ . During normal travel, a crawler moves from a start location to its goal, its traveling speed limited by the maximum allowable power delivered to the propulsion system.

### COVERAGE DREDGING

### TRAVEL

### LOCALIZED DREDGING

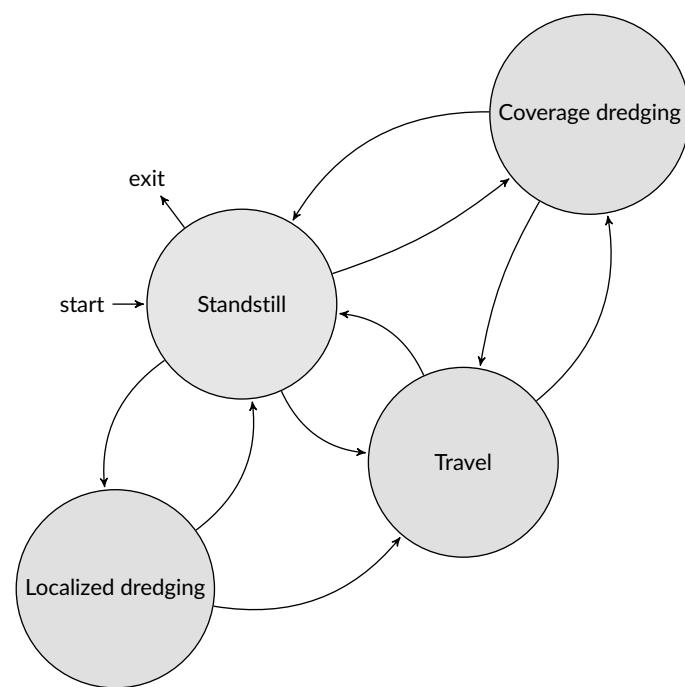


FIGURE 4.4: STATE OPERATIONS

# **5 CHAPTER DESIGN VALIDATION**

It is important to validate the performance of the proposed controller, this could either be done in a field test, full-scale or scaled down, or in a virtual simulation environment. Provided that the simulated environment is an accurate representation of the physical world. The crawler which was available at the beginning of the project was unfortunately halfway the project, disassembled and no longer a viable method to verify the proposed controller. Roughly around the same time, the working environment and contract of the author changed as well. This forced validation to be performed in a simulation. This chapter will described the simulation setup and used methods in Section 5.1. The results are discussed in Section 5.2.

## **5.1 SIMULATION**

In order to tell something meaningful about performance of a controller, it has to be subject to the same physical processes, as it would in real-life, albeit in virtual form. Section 4.4.2 lists assumed forces and processes acting upon on a crawler and states that drive-train characteristic and soil dynamics play a huge part in the kinematic behavior of a crawler. There are a couple of physics simulation engines that could be possible candidates for usage in this project; These are Gazebo, Project Chrono, Bullet and PhyhsX.

From this list, only Project Chrono has an existing framework which takes into account soil dynamic behavior. This can be simulated using a granular approach, were each particle of sand is body and is modeled using spherical rigid bodies whose orientation is captured by Euler parameters. For each time step a complete geometric characterization of all contacting particles is then obtained using collision detection and inter- particle normal contact forces are calculated by allowing small inter-penetrations using a penalty method for Discrete Element Method (DEM). Were the normal contact force is based on Hertz law and friction forces are calculated using the Coulomb limit [79][81]. This method is computational heavy and more suitable for detailed modeling.

An alternative method is Soil Contact Model (SCM), based upon the familiar Becker-Wong model. The model provides a semi-empirical approach to the simulation of soft soil. It offers high speed of simulation and it is accurate enough for many scenarios. It has the following attributes: it depends on few parameters (the same that are used in the Bekker- Wong model); it can generate 3D ruts on terrains of variable height; it takes into account multi-pass hardening when wheels generate intersecting ruts; it can work with irregular triangle-based terrain meshes; it supports an optional refinement of the terrain mesh to capture fine details like tire threads and lugs; and, it is compatible with deformable tires and generic shapes like obstacles, track shoes of tanks, etc. On the downside, the new soil model cannot simulate lateral bulldozing effects like those happening when a tracked vehicle steers in-place and pushes material apart [82]. This means that the proposed slip-prediction method can't be used in this simulation.

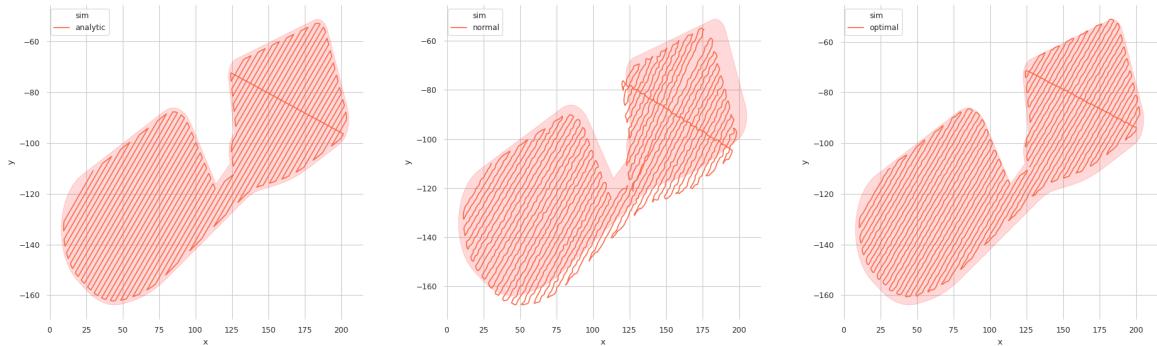
A big part of the physics engine, Project Chrono, is the autonomous vehicle support. This is set-up according to well known Object-Oriented Programming (OOP) practices such as, polymorphism, using virtual overrides in classes that represent physical bodies. A custom model for different models of a drive-train, body, wheels/tracks and controller can defined and connected as needed. Were the behavior of that individual model can be thought of as black box. As long as the interface with the components it connects to are maintained. Section 5.1.2 describes the modeling of the drive train in detail. The support of realistic sensor characteristic are not yet implemented in Project Chrono, since a big part of the validation is measuring the performance of a Kalman Filter. An extension for Project Chrono was written, which allows for the modeling of sensor behavior. This is extension is described in Section 5.1.1.

### 5.1.1 SENSOR SIMULATION

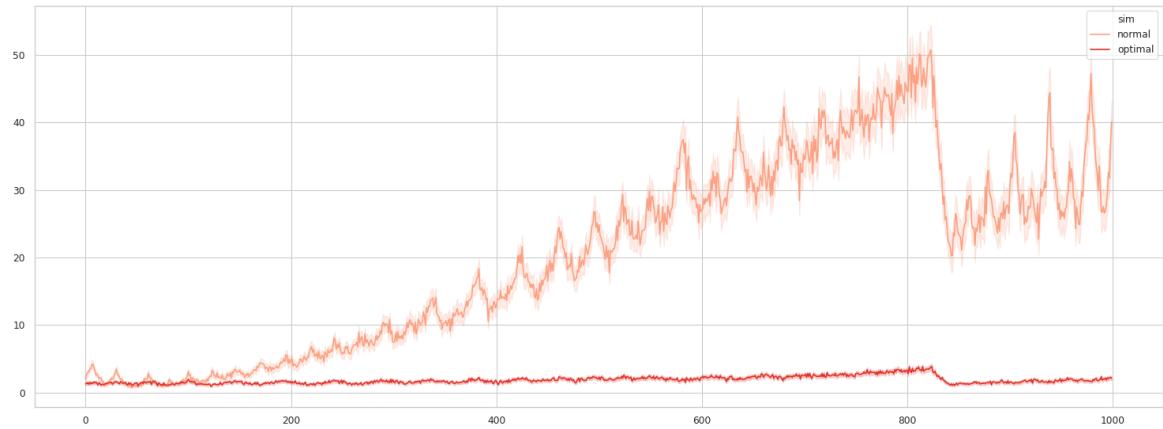
### 5.1.2 SIMULATION MODEL

In this section a model describing the movement of a crawler is outlined. Which allows for an accurate estimate of a predicted location and orientation of a crawler. The challenge lies in limiting uncertainties, such that path planning algorithms can be executed without unacceptable drift of a crawler during operations.

## 5.2 RESULTS



**FIGURE 5.1: CPP WITH/WITHOUT KALMAN FILTERING**



**FIGURE 5.2: NEES OF THE CONTROLLER**



# CHAPTER NOMENCLATURE 6

SIGN	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	PAGE
$\beta$	phase factor of a wave	–	9, 10
$\omega$	angular velocity	rad/s	10, 14, 15
$\theta$	angle on the x-axis	rad	14
$\phi_c$	roll of the crawler on the Euclidean y-axis	rad	42
$\gamma_e$	propagation constant	m	9–12
$\phi_{IMU}$	roll of the IMU on the Euclidean y-axis	rad	13, 15
$\gamma_m$	specific weight of diluted water during dredging	N/m <sup>3</sup>	17, 26
$\bar{\epsilon}_N$	mean NEES value	–	23
$\epsilon_{N,k}$	NEES at time $k$	–	23
$\Delta_p$	pressureloss	Pa	17
$\sigma_s$	deviation on position	m	22, 28, 29
$\sigma_{s,m}$	deviation on measured position	m	22
$\theta_{si}$	soft iron axis offset along the x-axis	rad	16, 17
$\gamma_{sw}$	specific weight of submerged soil	N/m <sup>3</sup>	17
$\omega_t$	true angular velocity	rad/s	15
$\sigma_v$	deviation on velocity	m/s	22
$\sigma_{v,m}$	deviation measured on velocity	m/s	22
$\gamma_w$	specific weight of water	N/m <sup>3</sup>	17
$a$	acceleration	m/s <sup>2</sup>	13
$a_x$	acceleration along the x-axis	m/s <sup>2</sup>	13
$a_y$	acceleration along the y-axis	m/s <sup>2</sup>	13
$a_z$	acceleration along the z-axis	m/s <sup>2</sup>	13, 20
$a_{z,k}$	acceleration along the z-axis at time $k$	m/s <sup>2</sup>	20–22
$a_{z,k-1}$	acceleration along the z-axis at time $k - 1$	m/s <sup>2</sup>	20
B	a control-input model which is applied to a control vector	–	20

SIGN	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	PAGE
$B_d$	slow changing component of the signal; this is the gyroscope drift	rad/s	15
$C$	cost a function	—	26
$c$	singel cell	—	30
$C_p$	critical point in graph	—	27
$C_{p_0}$	critical point 0 in graph	—	27
$C_{p_1}$	critical point 1 in graph	—	26–28
$C_{p_2}$	critical point 2 in graph	—	27, 28
$C_{p_3}$	critical point 3 in graph	—	27, 28
$C_{p_i}$	critical point $i$ th in graph	—	27
$\Delta d_{1,2}$	distance between two points	m	10
$d_i(x)$	distance between x points and obstacle $i$	m	27
$D_{l,t}$	line segment at $t$	—	30
$D_{l,t-1}$	line segment at $t - 1$	—	30
$\hat{E}$	amplitude of the electric field wave	V/m	9, 10
$e$	Eulers number 2.7182818284	—	10
$E_x$	Is defined mathematically as a vector field that associates to each point in space the (electrostatic or Coulomb) force per unit of charge exerted on an infinitesimal positive test charge at rest at that point.	V/m	9, 10
$F$	force	N	13, 20, 21
$G$	adjacency graph	—	26, 31–33
$g$	standard gravity model	$m^2/s$	17, 20
$G_1$	adjacency subgraph 1	—	26
$G_2$	adjacency subgraph 2	—	26
$\hat{H}$	amplitude of the magnetic field wave	A	9, 10, 20–22
$H_y$	is a vector field that describes the magnetic influence of electric charges in relative motion and magnetized materials	A/m	9, 10
$i$	imaginary unit	—	10
$\bar{K}$	Kalman gain matrix	—	20–22
$L_{\alpha,\epsilon}$	electromagnetic signal strength	dB	10
$m$	mass	kg	13, 16

SIGN	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	PAGE
$\vec{m}_{hi}$	hard iron adjusted vector	T	16, 17
$m_n$	number of neighbouring neurons	–	38
$\vec{m}_{si}$	soft iron adjusted vector	T	16, 17
$n_{a,l}$	neural activity of a the $l$ th neuron	–	37, 38
$n_s$	stochastic component of a signal	rad/s	15
$n_x$	number of elements in the state vector	–	23
$p$	pressure	Pa	17
$\mathbf{P}_0$	initialization covariance matrix of state estimation uncertainty	–	20
$p_a$	atmospheric pressure	Pa	17
$\mathbf{P}_k$	covariance matrix of state estimation uncertainty	–	20-23
$\vec{p}_k$	AUV location at time k	m	38, 42
$\vec{p}_{k+1}$	AUV location at time $k + 1$	m	38
$\vec{p}_{k+1}$	pose components of the state vector $\vec{x}_{k+1}$	m	42, 43
$\mathbf{P}_{k-1}$	covariance matrix of a priori state estimation uncertainty	–	20, 21
$\vec{q}$	heat flow	–	42
$\mathbf{Q}_k$	covariance matrix of process estimation uncertainty	–	20, 21
$q_s$	real component of a quaternion	–	42
$q_{si}$	smallest magnitude of a point on the ellipse, and thus the vector of the B-axis	T	16, 17
$q_x$	imaginary x-axis of a quaternion	–	42
$q_y$	imaginary y-axis of a quaternion	–	42
$q_z$	imaginary z-axis of a quaternion	–	42
$\mathbf{R}$	covariance matrix of state estimation uncertainty	–	20, 21
$r$	radius	m	28
$r_0$	the receptive field radius of the $k$ th neuron	m	36, 37
$r_{si}$	greatest magnitude of a point on the ellipse, and thus the vector of the A-axis	T	16, 17
$S$	a movement in a graph	–	26
$s_z$	position along the z-axis	m	20, 21, 23
$s_{z,k}$	position along the z-axis at time $k$	m	20

SIGN	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	PAGE
$s_{z,k-1}$	position along the z-axis at time $k - 1$	m	20-22
$s_{z,m}$	measured position along the z-axis	m	21, 22
$s_{z,m,k}$	measured position along the z-axis at time $k$	m	21, 22
$T$	temperature	K	15, 17
$t$	time	s	10, 14, 20-23, 30, 42
$T'$	rate of temperature variation	K/s	15
$\theta_{ab}$	pitch of the dredge bot on the Euclidean $z$ -axis	rad	42
$\vec{u}$	unit vector	—	25, 41
$\vec{u}_k$	control inputs	—	20, 42, 43
$\vec{v}_k$	measurement noise	—	20, 21
$v_z$	velocity along the z-axis	m/s	20, 21, 23
$v_{z,k}$	velocity along the z-axis at time $k$	m/s	20
$v_{z,k-1}$	velocity along the z-axis at time $k - 1$	m/s	20-22
$\vec{w}_k$	process noise	—	20
$x$	location along the x-axis	m	27, 30, 31, 36, 42
$\vec{x}_0$	state vector describing the initial state of a system at the $k$ th component of $\vec{x}$	—	20
$\vec{x}_{g,k}$	ground truth state, describing the real state of a system $k$ th component of $\vec{x}$	—	23
$x_h$	hard iron distortion along the x-axis	T	15
$\vec{x}_k$	state vector describing the state of a system at the $k$ th component of $\vec{x}$	—	13, 19-23, 41-44
$\vec{x}_{k+1}$	a state estimate of $\vec{x}$ , conditioned on all available measurements at time $t_k$	—	41
$\vec{x}_{k-1}$	a priori state of $\vec{x}_k$ , conditioned on all prior measurements, except the one at time $t_k$	—	20
$x_m$	raw magnetometer value along the x-axis	T	15, 16
$y$	location along the y-axis	m	36, 42
$y_1$	y-index of greatest magnetic magnitude	T	16, 17
$y_h$	hard iron distortion along the y-axis	T	15
$\vec{y}_k$	measured values	—	20, 21, 41
$y_l$	a gls-monotonically increasing function of the difference between the next moving directions	m	38
$y_m$	raw magnetometer value along the y-axis	T	15, 16

SIGN	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	PAGE
$z$	height	m	17, 42
$z_\epsilon$	height error	m	17
$\vec{z}_k$	measured values mapped to the state space	–	20-22
$z_m$	raw magnetometer value along the z-axis	T	15, 16
$z_p$	height of the pressure sensor with regards to the soil bed	m	17

# 7 CHAPTER GLOSSARY

KEY	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
<b>accelerometer</b>	a device that measures proper acceleration	12–15, 18, 19, 41
<b>acoustic-navigation</b>	triangulation of a position using the difference in send and receive time of signal, to calculate the distance from a source	18
<b>adjacency-graph</b>	a graph representing depicting all the nodes	26, 28
<b>Archimedes-screw</b>	a machine historically used for transferring water from a low-lying body of water into irrigation ditches. The same principle can also be used propel the screw in a medium.	41
<b>bandwidth</b>	a difference between the upper and lower frequencies in a continuous set of frequencies	11
<b>bathymetric-map</b>	submerged equivalent of an above-water topographic map	19
<b>bitstream</b>	a sequential binary sequence	6
<b>coriolis-effect</b>	an inertial or fictitious force that acts on objects that are in motion within a frame of reference that rotates with respect to an inertial frame.	14
<b>coverage-path</b>	a sequence of steps which coveres a whole area by following a certain path	24, 26, 28, 29, 33
<b>critical-point</b>	a value of average degree, which separates networks	25–28
<b>cusp-point</b>	are points where its surface normal of the boundary of the free configuration space is non-smooth	28
<b>deadlock-state</b>	a standstill situation, from which the algorithm has no means of escape	35
<b>dead-reckoning</b>	the process of calculating one's current position by using a previously determined position, or fix, and advancing that position based upon known or estimated speeds over elapsed time and course	13, 18, 28
<b>draghead</b>	a suction mouth which is dragged across a water body	3, 4
<b>dredgeline</b>	a pipeline which transports excavated slurry	1, 6, 7
<b>electric-field</b>	a vector field that associates to each point in space the Coulomb force that would be experienced per unit of electric charge, by an infinitesimal test charge at that point. Electric fields converge and diverge at electric charges and can be induced by time-varying magnetic fields	9
<b>erosion</b>	an action of surface processes (such as water flow or wind) that removes soil	1
<b>geophysical-navigation</b>	navigation using landmarks	18, 19

KEY	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
<b>gimbal-lock</b>	the loss of one degree of freedom in a three-dimensional space, three-gimbal mechanism that occurs when the axes of two of the three gimbals are driven into a parallel configuration, "locking" the system into rotation in a degenerate two-dimensional space	42
<b>gyroscope</b>	a spinning wheel or disc in which the axis of rotation is free to assume any orientation by itself. When rotating, the orientation of this axis is unaffected by tilting or rotation of the mounting, according to the conservation of angular momentum. Because of this, gyroscopes are useful for measuring or maintaining orientation	12–15, 18, 19, 41
<b>hard-iron</b>	a constant additive disturbance in the magnetic field of the magnetometer	16
<b>hopper</b>	a storage container or compartment	2, 3
<b>Kalman-filter</b>	an algorithm that uses a series of measurements observed over time, containing statistical noise and other inaccuracies, and produces estimates of unknown variables that tend to be more precise than those based on a single measurement alone	6, 12, 14, 19–22, 24, 41
<b>kalman-gain</b>	the relative weight given to the measurements and current state estimate, and can be "tuned" to achieve particular performance. With a high gain, the filter places more weight on the most recent measurements, and thus follows them more responsively. With a low gain, the filter follows the model predictions more closely. At the extremes, a high gain close to one will result in a more jumpy estimated trajectory, while low gain close to zero will smooth out noise but decrease the responsiveness	21, 22
<b>lora</b>	a wireless technology that has been developed to enable low data rate communications to be made over long distances by sensors and actuators for M2M and Internet of Things, IoT applications	11
<b>lorentz-force</b>	the combination of electric and magnetic force on a point charge due to electromagnetic fields	15
<b>magnetic-field</b>	a magnetic effect of electric currents and magnetic materials. The magnetic field at any given point is specified by both a direction and a magnitude (or strength); as such it is a vector field	9
<b>magnetometer</b>	a magnetometer is an instrument that measures magnetism, either magnetization of magnetic material like a ferromagnet, or the strength and, in some cases, direction of the magnetic field at a point in space	12, 13, 15, 19, 41
<b>maxwell</b>	are a set of partial differential equations that, together with the Lorentz force law, form the foundation of classical electrodynamics, classical optics, and electric circuits	9
<b>monotonically</b>	a function between ordered sets that preserves or reverses the given order	37, 38
<b>morse-function</b>	a function for which all critical points are non-degenerate and all critical levels are different	25, 26

KEY	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
<b>narrow-cell</b>	a cell is located in a narrow space, bound between multiple walls	28
<b>non-commutative</b>	a operation in which the order of the operands determine the results	42
<b>odometry</b>	the use of data from motion sensors to estimate change in position over time	14
<b>off-line</b>	algorithm which plans an optimal path ahead of time, thus which needs to know the environment <i>a priori</i>	19, 24, 26
<b>on-line</b>	an algorithm which has the ability to adapt when needed	24, 30
<b>optimal-path</b>	a sequence of steps which are optimized	23, 25, 26
<b>polarized-plane</b>	is a confinement of the electric field vector or magnetic field vector to a given plane along the direction of propagation	9
<b>pressure-sensor</b>	can be classified in terms of pressure ranges they measure, temperature ranges of operation, and most importantly the type of pressure they measure	12, 17-19, 41
<b>quaternion</b>	a number system that extends the complex numbers. They were first described by Irish mathematician William Rowan Hamilton in 1843 and applied to mechanics in three-dimensional space. A feature of quaternions is that multiplication of two quaternions is non-commutative. Hamilton defined a quaternion as the quotient of two directed lines in a three-dimensional space or equivalently as the quotient of two vectors a mathematical object reflecting the evolution of the level sets of a real-valued function on a manifold	19, 42
<b>reeb-graph</b>	the opposite of erosion	1
<b>silt</b>	a granular material of a size between sand and clay	1
<b>slurry</b>	describe a mixture that consist of both solid and fluid phases	2, 4
<b>soft-iron</b>	a result of material that distorts the magnetic field of magnetometer, but does not necessarily generate its own magnetic field	16
<b>trapezoidal-rule</b>	a technique for approximating the definite integral	14
<b>traveling-salesman-problem</b>	asks the following question: "Given a list of cities and the distances between each pair of cities, what is the shortest possible route that visits each city exactly once and returns to the origin city?" It is an NP-hard problem in combinatorial optimization, important in operations research and theoretical computer science	26
<b>umbilical</b>	a electronic cable connecting an underwater vehicle	1, 6, 7, 30, 51
<b>vast-cell</b>	a cell located in a vast open space	28
<b>voronoi-diagram</b>	a partition of a plane into regions close to each of a given set of objects	24

KEY	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
<b>word</b>	a string of bits representing a value which is stored in memory	15

# 8 CHAPTER ACRONYMS

KEY	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
<b>ADC</b>	Analog Digital Conversion	14, 15
<b>AOD</b>	Autonomous Operating Dredgebot	1
<b>ASD</b>	Auger Suction Dredger	3
<b>AUV</b>	Autonomous Underwater Vehicle	7, 18, 42
<b>AW</b>	Acoustic Waves	12
<b>BCD</b>	Boustrophedon Cellular Decomposition	25, 26, 28
<b>CIP</b>	Common Industrial Protocol	8
<b>CPP</b>	Coverage Path Planning	6, 24, 40
<b>CSD</b>	Cutter Suction Dredger	4
<b>DEM</b>	Discrete Element Method	46
<b>DoA</b>	Direction of arrival	18
<b>EMW</b>	Electromagnetic Waves	8–10, 12, 18
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System	6, 12, 14, 18, 40
<b>GVD</b>	Generalized Voronoi Diagram	28
<b>IEEE</b>	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers	8, 10, 11
<b>IMU</b>	Inertial Measurement Unit	13
<b>IoT</b>	Internet of Things	11
<b>LBL</b>	Long Base Line	19
<b>LLC</b>	Logical Link Control	8, 10
<b>LQE</b>	Linear Quadratic Estimation	19
<b>LQG-MP</b>	Linear-Quadratic Gaussian Motion Planning	19
<b>MAC</b>	Media Access Control	8, 10
<b>MEMS</b>	Micro Electro Mechanical System	13–15
<b>MLP</b>	Multi-Layer Perceptron	33
<b>MTI</b>	IHC MTI B.V.	17

KEY	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
<b>NEES</b>	Normalized Estimated Error Squared	23, 24
<b>OOP</b>	Object-Orientated Programming	46
<b>RESL</b>	Robotic Embedded Systems Laboratory	11
<b>ROV</b>	Remote Operated Vehicle	7
<b>RRT</b>	Rapidly exploring Random Trees	19
<b>SCM</b>	Soil Contact Model	46
<b>SLAM</b>	Simultaneous Localization And Mapping	19
<b>Spiral-STC</b>	Spiral Spanning Tree Coverage	35, 36
<b>SW</b>	Sound Waves	12
<b>SWR</b>	Submerged Weight Range	43
<b>TCP</b>	Transmission Control Protocol	8
<b>TIR</b>	Total Internal Reflection	6
<b>ToF</b>	Time of Flight	18
<b>TRN</b>	Terrain Relative navigation	19
<b>TSHD</b>	Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger	3
<b>UDP</b>	User Datagram Protocol	8
<b>UKF</b>	Unscented Kalman Filter	41, 42
<b>USBL</b>	Ultra Short Base Line	19
<b>UT</b>	Unscented Transformation	41

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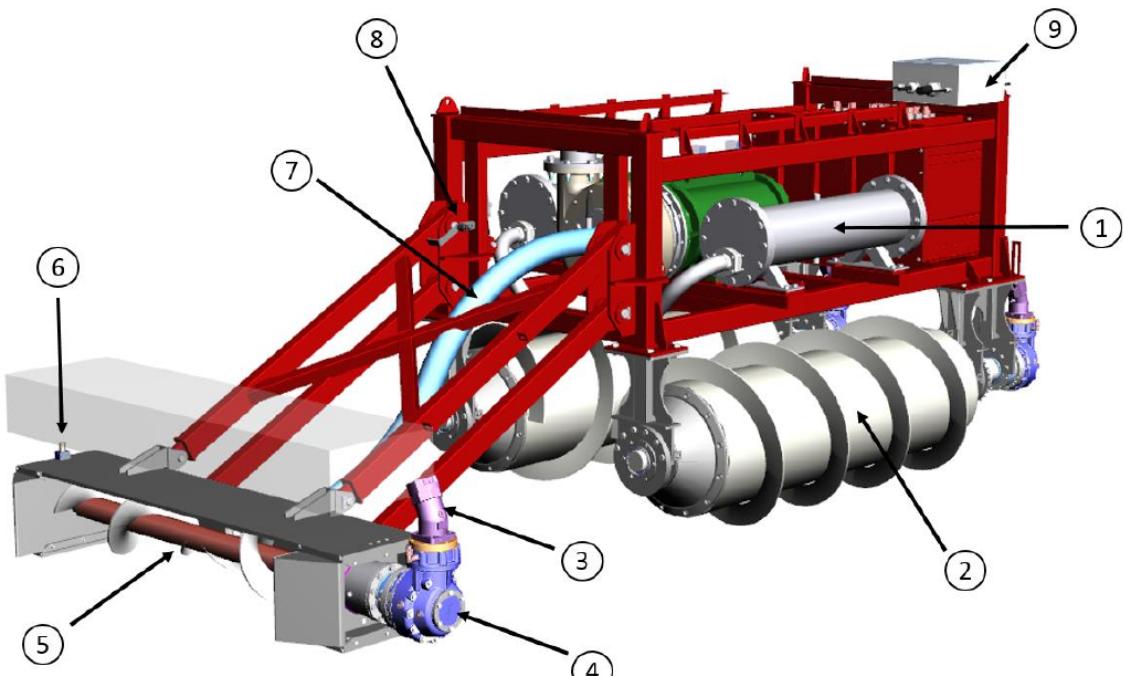
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## **APPENDICES**

# A APPENDIX CRAWLER PARTLIST



**FIGURE A.1: MAJOR PARTLIST SIDEVIEW [83]**

NO	DESCRIPTION
1	Oil buffer
2	Archimedes screw propulsion
3	Hydraulic motor
4	Gearbox
5	Auger
6	RPM sensor auger
7	Flexible suction hose 100mm
8	Dredge head angle sensor
9	Termination box, interface between crawler and umbilical

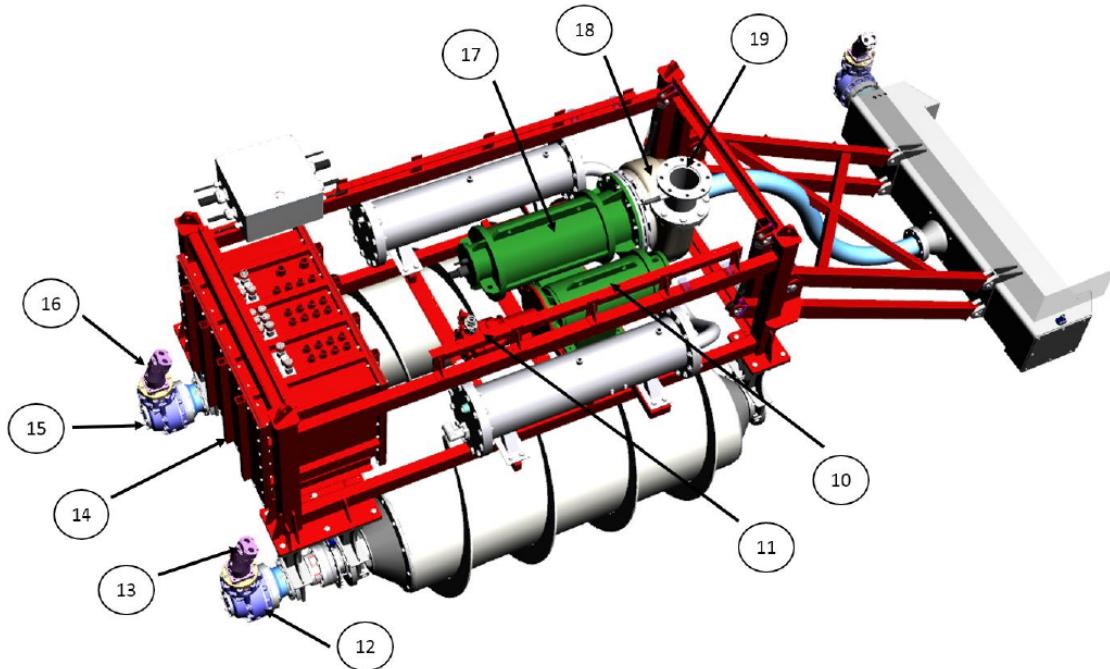


FIGURE A.2: MAJOR PARTLIST TOPVIEW [83]

NO	DESCRIPTION
10	Electric motor
11	Hydraulic pump
12	Gearbox
13	Hydraulic motor
14	Connection box
15	Gearbox
16	Hydraulic motor
17	Electric motor
18	IHC TT 150 dredge pump
19	Discharge

# B APPENDIX APPLIED RESEARCH METHODS

The used research strategy is described for the purpose of transparency and quality control. It serves as the basis for chapter 3. By defining keywords and queries, setting boundaries and specifying the databases, potential sources are filtered on relevance. These are then read and reviewed, if they are indeed relevant and adhere to stated selection criteria, they are used in this study.

## APPLIED PARAMETERS

Parameters for a research study The applied parameters for each search query are listed below:

PARAMETER	VALUE
Language of publication	English or Dutch.
Area of research	Engineering, Maritime, Artificial Intelligence, Sensors, Dredging.
Industry sector	Maritime, Robotics, Mining.
Geographical area	World wide.
Time period	1995 till present.
Types of literature	Peer review papers, MSc thesis, Ph.D. thesis, scientific books, (inter-)national standards.

## KEYWORDS AND QUERIES

- "CPP" **OR** "coverage path planning"
  - **AND** "underwater"
  - **AND** "cellular decomposition"
    - \* **AND** "Morse"
    - \* **AND** "Trapezoidal"
    - \* **AND** "Boustrophedon"
  - **AND** "landmark" **OR** "topological"
    - \* **AND** "slice decomposition"
    - \* **AND** "neural networks"
  - **AND** "grid"
    - \* **AND** "spanning tree" **OR** "STC"
    - \* **AND** "neural networks"
    - \* **AND** "probability" **OR** "certainty"
  - **AND** "cooperative localization"
- "auger" **OR** "screw conveyor"
  - **AND** "production" **OR** "flow"
  - **AND** "dredging" **OR** "dredge head"
- "underwater" **AND** "communication"
  - **AND** "wireless"
    - \* **AND** "protocol"
    - \* **AND** "electromagnetic"

- \* **AND** "acoustic"
- \* **AND** "optical"
- \* **AND** "environment"
- **AND** "umbilical"
  - \* **AND** "environment"
- "IMU" **OR** "Inertial Measurement Unit"
  - **AND** "gyro" **OR** "gyroscope"
    - \* **AND** "error"
    - \* **AND** "temperature"
  - **AND** "accelerometer"
    - \* **AND** "error"
    - \* **AND** "temperature"
    - \* **AND** "gravity"
  - **AND** "magnetometer"
    - \* **AND** "error"
    - \* **AND** "temperature"
- "pressure" **AND** "sensor"
  - **AND** "underwater"
  - **AND** "error"
  - **AND** "temperature"
  - **AND** "water" **AND** "depth"
  - **AND** "resolution"
- "Kalman filter"
  - **AND** "gyro" **OR** "gyroscope"
  - **AND** "accelerometer"
  - **AND** "magnetometer"
  - **AND** "quaternions"
  - **AND** "AHRS" **OR** "Attitude and heading reference system"
  - **AND** "extended"
  - **AND** "unscented"

## DATABASES AND SEARCH ENGINES

DATABASE	TYPE
Academic Search Complete	More than 10.000 digital academic magazines
EBSCO	
Google Scholar	Scientific Internet search engine
Microsoft Academic Research	Scientific Internet search engine
NEN Connect	Search engine for (inter-)national norms ISO / NEN
Science direct	Over 2.000 scientific magazines
Springer link	Over 2.500 scientific magazines
Wiley Online Library	Almost 1.000 scientific magazines
MTeye	MTI Library consisting of roughly 700m of technical books related to soil, sea, mining and engineering
My own Library	A mere 20m of technical books, related to math, engineering, programming, electronics and artificial intelligence

# C APPENDIX KALMAN EXAMPLE FALLING BALL

## LISTING C.1: FALLING BALL EXAMPLE

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as pl

pl.rcParams['legend.loc'] = 'best'
import numpy as np
from numpy import dot
from scipy.linalg import inv

def build_real_values():
    num_of_time_steps = 100
    dt = 0.2
    t = np.linspace(start=0., stop=num_of_time_steps * dt, num=num_of_time_steps)
    s = np.zeros((num_of_time_steps, 1))
    v = np.zeros((num_of_time_steps, 1))
    a = np.zeros((num_of_time_steps, 1))

    a = np.ones((num_of_time_steps, 1)) * 9.81 # Build acceleration profile
    for i in range(1, num_of_time_steps):
        v[i] = v[i - 1] + a[i] * dt # Build speed profile
        s[i] = s[i - 1] + v[i] * dt + 0.5 * a[i] * dt ** 2 # Build position profile

    return [t, dt, s, v, a]

def build_measurement_values(t, S):
    y = np.zeros((t.size, 2, 1))
    S_m = np.random.normal(0., 50, (len(S), 1)) + S
    y[:, 0] = S_m
    return y

def build_control_values(t, a):
    u = np.ones((t.size, 2, 1)) * a[0]
    return u

def init_kalman(t, dt):
    phi_s = 5

    F = np.array([
        [1., dt],
        [0., 1.]
    ])

    B = np.array([
        [0.5 * dt ** 2, 0.],
        [0., dt]
    ])

    H = np.array([
        [1., 0.],
        [0., 0.0]
    ])
```

```

Q = np.array([
    [(1 / 3) * dt ** 3, 0.5 * dt ** 2],
    [0.5 * dt ** 2, dt]
]) * phi_s

R = np.array([
    [40**2, 0.0],
    [0.0, 15**2]
])
v = np.random.normal(0, 25e-2, (t.size, 2, 1))
w = np.random.normal(0, 25e-2, (t.size, 2, 1))
return [F, B, H, Q, R, v, w]

def kalman(t, kalman_values, u, z, error):
    x = np.zeros((t.size, 2, 1))
    P = np.zeros((t.size, 2, 2))
    P[0, :, :] = np.array([
        [error[0] ** 2, 0.],
        [0., error[0] ** 2]
    ])

    xhat = np.zeros((t.size, 2, 1))
    y = np.zeros((t.size, 2, 1))

    F = kalman_values[0]
    B = kalman_values[1]
    H = kalman_values[2]
    Q = kalman_values[3]
    R = kalman_values[4]
    v = kalman_values[5]
    w = kalman_values[6]

    K = np.zeros((t.size, 2, 2))

    for k in range(1, t.size):
        xhat[k] = dot(F, x[k - 1]) + dot(B, u[k]) + w[k]
        Phat = dot(F, dot(P[k - 1], F.T)) + Q

        y[k] = z[k] - dot(H.T, xhat[k])

        S = dot(H.T, dot(Phat, H)) + R
        S = np.linalg.inv(S)
        K[k] = dot(Phat, dot(H, S))
        x[k] = xhat[k] + dot(K[k], y[k])

        P[k] = dot(np.eye(2) - dot(K[k], H.T), Phat)
    return [x, K, P, xhat, z]

def NEES(xs, est_xs, ps):
    est_err = xs - est_xs
    err = np.zeros(xs[:, 0].size)
    i = 0
    for x, p in zip(est_err, ps):
        err[i] = (np.dot(x.T, inv(p)).dot(x))
        i += 1
    return err

def plot_results(t, x, xground, a, u, y, K, P, xhat, z, nees):
    pl.figure()
    pl.subplot(311)
    pl.plot(xground[:, 0])

```

```

pl.plot(x[:, 0], '+')
pl.plot(z[:, 0], '.')
pl.subplot(312)
pl.plot(xground[:, 1])
pl.plot(xhat[:, 1], 'o')
pl.plot(x[:, 1])
pl.subplot(313)
pl.plot(nees)
pl.tight_layout()
pl.savefig('fallingBall.png')
pl.show()

def save_results(t, xground, x, z, nees):
    # save csv
    datPos = np.zeros((t.size, 4, 1))
    datPos[:, 0] = t.reshape((t.size, 1))
    datPos[:, 1] = xground[:, 0]
    datPos[:, 2] = x[:, 0]
    datPos[:, 3] = z[:, 0]
    np.savetxt('fallingBallPos.dat', datPos, delimiter=',')

    datSpeed = np.zeros((t.size, 3, 1))
    datSpeed[:, 0] = t.reshape((t.size, 1))
    datSpeed[:, 1] = xground[:, 1]
    datSpeed[:, 2] = x[:, 1]
    np.savetxt('fallingBallSpeed.dat', datSpeed, delimiter=',')

    datNEES = np.zeros((t.size + 1, 2, 1))
    datNEES[0:t.size, 0] = t.reshape((t.size, 1))
    datNEES[0:t.size, 1] = nees.reshape(t.size, 1)
    datNEES[-1, 0] = t[-1]
    datNEES[-1, 1] = 0.0
    np.savetxt('fallingBall_NEES.dat', datNEES, delimiter=',')

    np.savetxt('fallingBall_meanNEES.dat', [np.mean(nees)], delimiter=',')

def main():
    [t, dt, s, v, a] = build_real_values()
    z = build_measurement_values(t, s)
    u = build_control_values(t, a)
    [F, B, H, Q, R, vv, w] = init_kalman(t, dt)
    error = [40, 10]
    kalman_values = [F, B, H, Q, R, vv, w]
    x, K, P, xhat, y = kalman(t, kalman_values, u, z, error)
    xground = np.zeros(x.shape)
    xground[:, 0] = s
    xground[:, 1] = v
    nees = NEES(xground, x, P)
    print(np.mean(nees))
    save_results(t, xground, x, z, nees)
    plot_results(t, x, xground, a, u, y, K, P, xhat, y, nees)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    main()

```