

THESIS

DESIGN OF AN AUTONOMOUS DREDGE BOT CONTROLLER



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IHC MTI B.V.

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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 3500m^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 [15] 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 an 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. Schrieck [28] states that the issue in maintain existing waterways and harbours, preserve the depth of the bed by regular 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 characteristics of this kind of work is the weak cohesion of the soil to be removed, since it consist of recently deposited sediment and no significant consolidation has taken place yet.

A special kind of maintenance dredging is sanitation dredging which is a process specially 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 it needs to be removed with care and precision.

2.2 COMMONLY USED VESSELS AND EQUIPMENT

Common dredge tools used during maintenance work are listed below, of this list backhoes and suction dredgers are mostly used during port maintenance. Vlasblom [33] states that dredgers can be divided in mechanical dredgers and hydraulic dredgers. Where the difference lies in the way the soil is excavated; either mechanical or hydraulic.

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 which, is a storage container or compartment..

The various types of mechanical dredgers won't be described in this section, since the Autonomous Operating Dredgebot (AOD) used in our uses-cases will be of a hydraulic type.

2.2.2 HYDRAULIC DREDGER

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

PLAIN SUCTION DREDGER

Vlasblom [33] describes a plain suction dredger as an stationary dredger, consisting of a pontoon anchored by one or more wires an 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 DREDGER

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 attached to each suction tube and is trailed across the sea bed to loosen the soil before it is pumped up [28]. This soil is stored in a hopper which is periodically discharged, at an designated location, through dumping or pumping out.

AUGER SUCTION DREDGER

According to VBKO Vereniging van waterbouwers in bagger-, kust- en oeverwerken [6] 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, where it cuts the material and actively transports in to 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 types of dredgers are well suited for sanitation maintenance.



FIGURE 2.1: AUGER SUCTION DREDGER [6]

CUTTER SUCTION DREDGER

According to Vlasblom [33] a Cutter Suction Dredger (CSD) is a stationary dredger equipped with a cutter device (cutter head) which excavate 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 [25] hydraulics systems are the de-facto industry of transportation for dredged sedimented, or slurry; Hydraulic systems consists of pipes, either flexible or rigid, combined with centrifugal pumps, a suction mouth and a discharge unit. These components are usually placed in series. A slurry moving through a hydraulic system experiences friction, both from shearing of a fluid along a wall and internal shearing of the fluid itself. This friction results in a pressure drop along these components. Coupled with a pressure drop needed to overcome a height difference, result in a needed pressure, which the pump has to deliver for a certain flow-rate.

The section below shortly describe 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 constrains such as a flexible dredge line to shore can be added to the equation. Since the dredge bot does not have a holding space to store collected sediment this is part of the normal operation. 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 [25]. Assuming a steady flow, the pump basically increases the Bernoulli head of the flow between point 1, the eye and point 2, the exit [20].

2.3.2 AUGER DREDGE HEAD

An auger umbilical which, is a electronic cable connecting an underwater vehicle, 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 possible polluted, layers at a relatively high production rate [28].

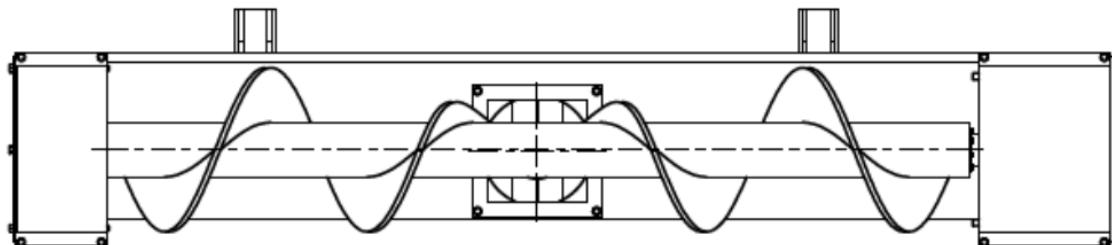


FIGURE 2.2: SCHEMATIC DRAWING OF AN AUGER DREDGE HEAD [31]

The auger is in effect a screw conveyor which guiding the material towards the suction head. Green and Perry [12] states that the screw conveyor one of the oldest and most versatile conveyor types 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 [2] 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 pump are 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 fulfil 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 fulfil its objective. Firstly, in section 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, by using Bayesian inference and estimating a joint probability distribution over the variables for each time frame.,

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. [32] 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.

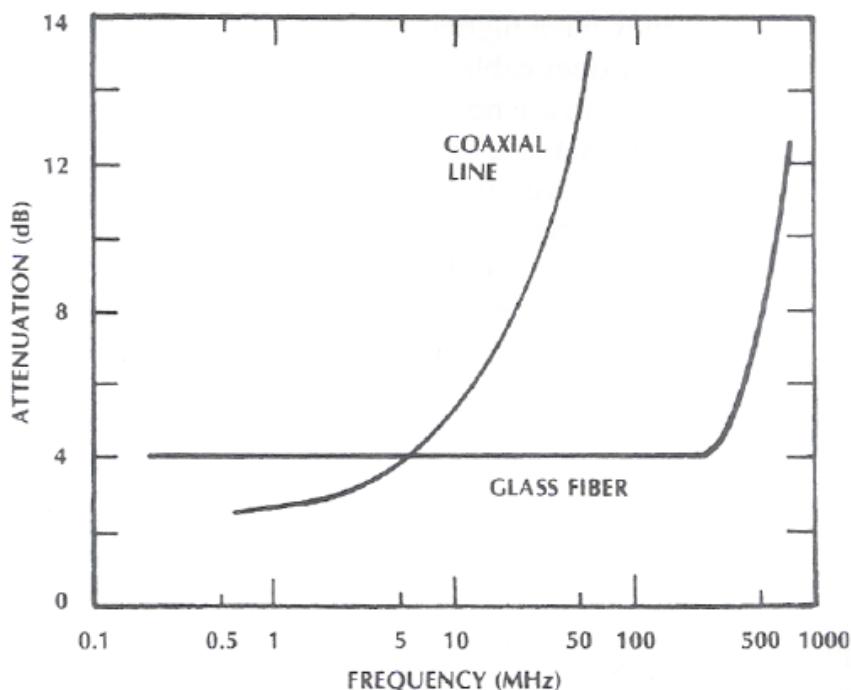


FIGURE 3.1: EFFECTIVE ATTENUATION FIBRE VS COPPER CABLE 1 km [5]

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 [7] 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. [4], 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 [3] 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 [11], whom describes a mathematical model which allow the state representation of the dredge bot, as described in section ??, 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 [8] 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 [30] 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 [27] 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 [27] 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.* [22] 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 [18] and physical constraints of the medium [14].

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 [29].

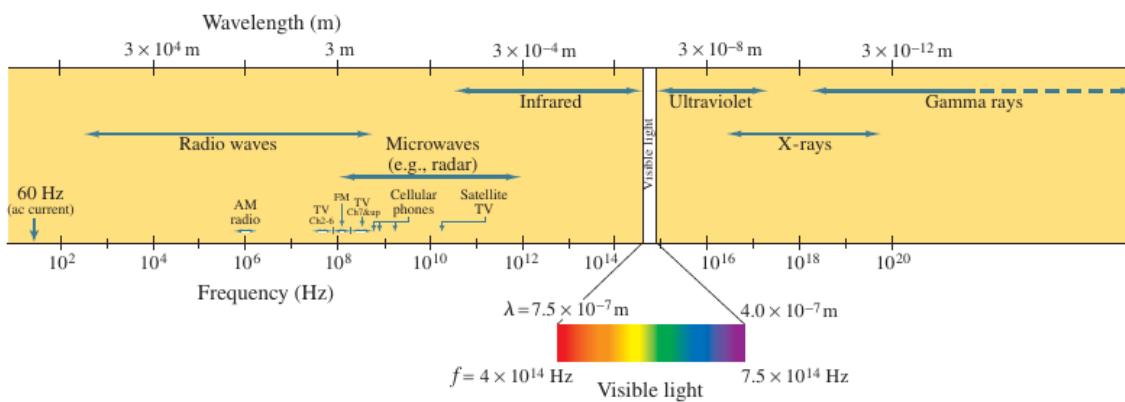


FIGURE 3.2: ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM [29]

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.

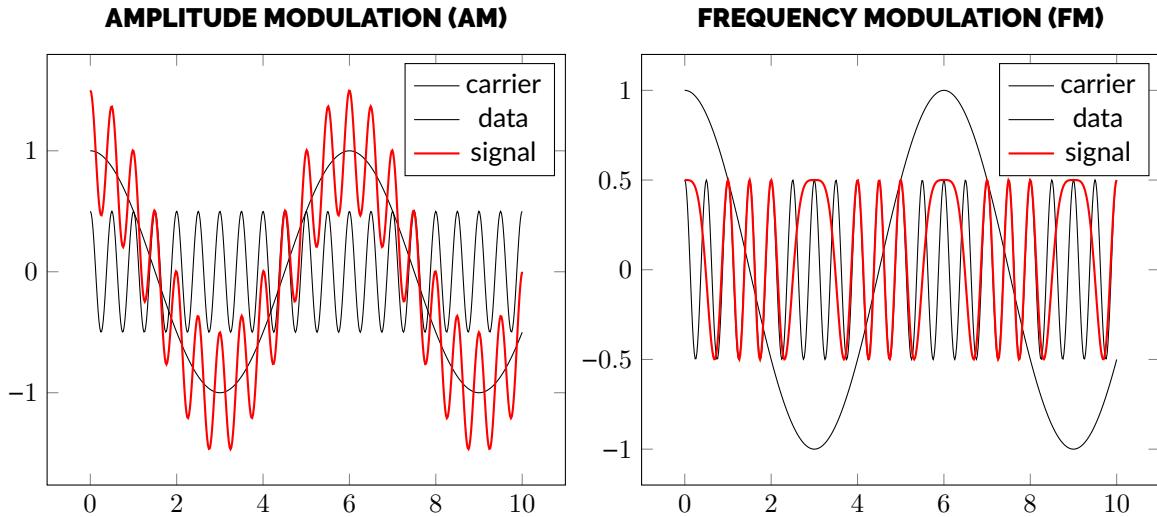


FIGURE 3.3: SIGNAL MODULATION

Hagman, Elias [16] 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 [23] 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 [16] 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 [16].

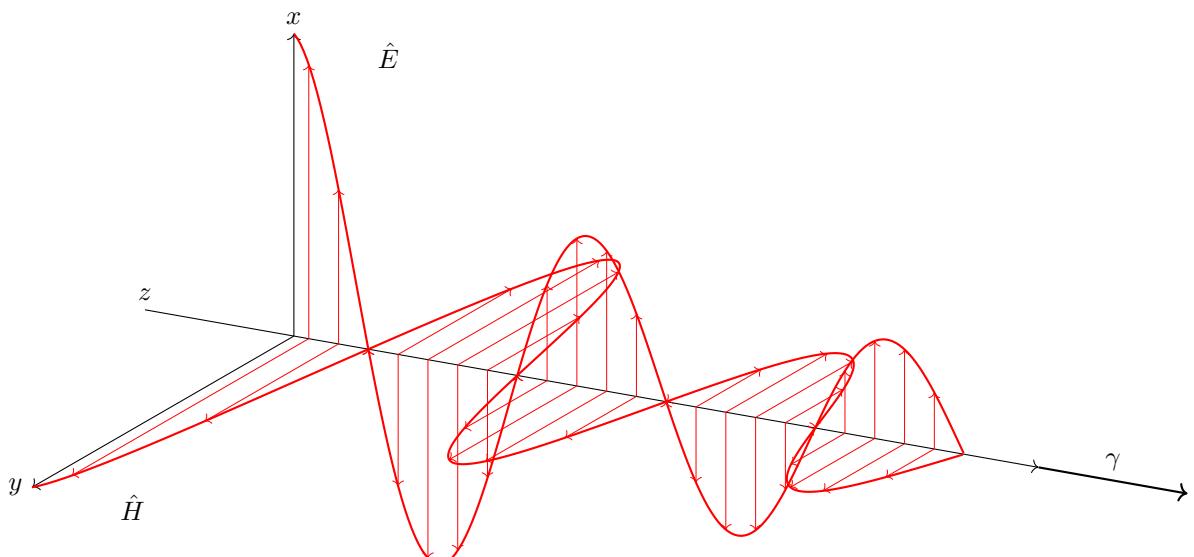


FIGURE 3.4: DAMPENING OF ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELD

Where \hat{E} and \hat{H} are the amplitudes of the electric and the magnetic field wave and γ_e which is propagation constant given in [m] expressed in ϵ_e which is permittivity given in [-], as shown in equation 3.3, where μ_e which is electromagnetism permeability given in [H/m] and σ_e which is Electrical conductivity given in [S/m] of a material. Here α_e which is attenuation given in [dB/m] and β which is phase factor of a wave given in [-].

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

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

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

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

As is evident from equation 3.1 and 3.2, there is a logarithmic relationship, maximization of the propagation γ_e leads to a lower amplitude of the electric and magnetic fields. This propagation is mostly determined by the attenuation α_e , which varies at different frequencies and mediums. Claus [26] 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 σ_e in S/m. Whilst Hattab, El-Tarhuni, Al-Ali, et al. [24] 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 γ_e is sufficient to calculate the loss for a given frequency. Since the only changing term due to frequency in the complex-valued γ_e is in its imaginary part, and due to the fact that each γ_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 σ_e is used.

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

The maximum penetration depth of signal in (sea) water, will, for simplicity sake be calculated with equation 3.5, where α_e is obtained using equation 3.4. Jiang and Georgakopoulos [19] 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 [19] 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 [19], Ainslie [17] and Bogie [1]. 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 [27] 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.

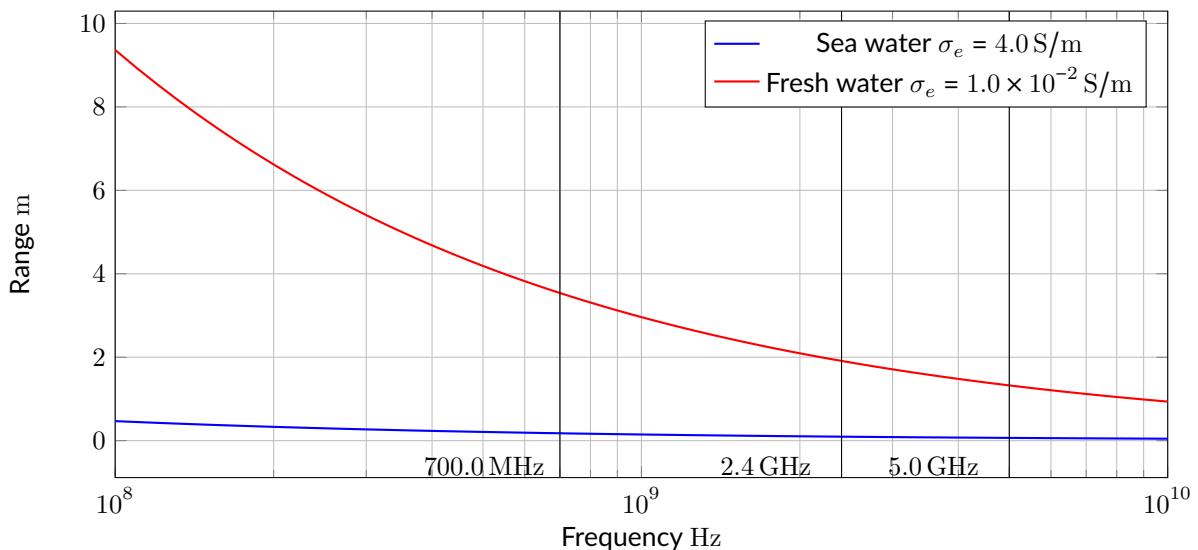


FIGURE 3.5: PROPAGATION RANGE OF WI-FI IN WATER.

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 [9] 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.

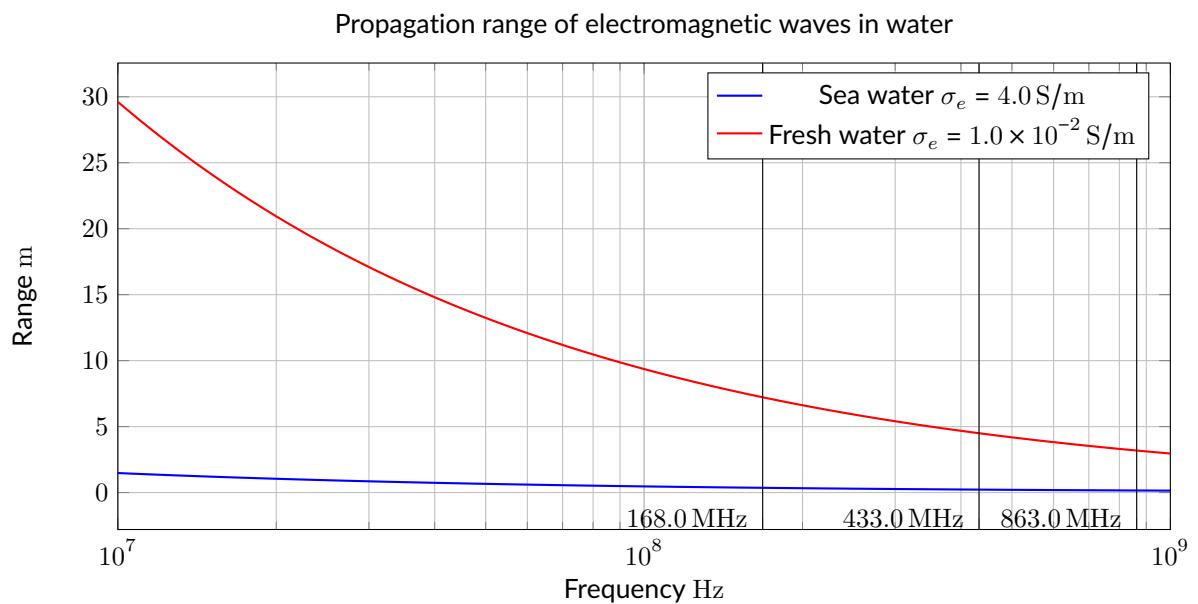


FIGURE 3.6: PROPAGATION RANGE OF LO-FI IN WATER

3.1.3 ELECTRIC CURRENT

Another way to communicate is through the use of electric current. Hagman, Elias [16] 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 [16]. 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.

3.1.4 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 [16], Claus [26] and Domingo [21] 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 [29]. This principle is used by hydrophones; These are in-effect microphones designed to be used underwater. Using piezoelectric 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 [13] transmitting and receiving acoustic energy in seawater is affected by the often unpredictable ocean environment, 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.

Lanbo, Shengli, and Jun-Hong [14] and Edward Tucholski [10] 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.

CHAPTER SYMBOLS LIST 4

SIGN	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	PAGE
β	phase factor of a wave	—	9, 10
γ_e	propagation constant	m	9-11
$\Delta d_{1,2}$	distance between point 1 and point 2	m	10
\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
\hat{H}	amplitude of the magnetic field wave	A	9, 10
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
$L_{\alpha,\epsilon}$	Electromagnetic Signal strength	dB	10

5 CHAPTER GLOSSARY

KEY	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
bandwidth	a difference between the upper and lower frequencies in a continuous set of frequencies	11
bitstream	a sequential binary sequence	6
draghead	a suction mouth which is dragged across a water body	3, 4
dredgeline	a pipeline which transports excavated slurry	1, 6, 7
electric-field	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.[1] Electric fields converge and diverge at electric charges and can be induced by time-varying magnetic fields	9
erosion	an action of surface processes (such as water flow or wind) that removes soil	1
hopper	a storage container or compartment	2, 3
Kalman-filter	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, by using Bayesian inference and estimating a joint probability distribution over the variables for each time frame	6
lora	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
magnetic-field	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
maxwell	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
polarized-plane	is a confinement of the electric field vector or magnetic field vector to a given plane along the direction of propagation	9
sedimentation	"the opposite of erosion	1
silt	a granular material of a size between sand and clay	1
slurry	describe a mixture that consist of both solid and fluid phases	2, 4
umbilical	a electronic cable connecting an underwater vehicle	1, 4, 6, 7, 19

CHAPTER ACRONYMS 6

KEY	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
AOD	Autonomous Operating Dredgebot	1, 2
ASD	Auger Suction Dredger	3
AUV	Autonomous Underwater Vehicle	7
AW	Acoustic Waves	12
CIP	Common Industrial Protocol	8
CPP	Coverage Path Planning	6
CSD	Cutter Suction Dredger	4
EMW	Electromagnetic Waves	8-10, 12
GPS	Global Positioning System	6
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers	8, 10, 11
IoT	Internet of Things	11
LLC	Logical Link Control	8, 10
MAC	Media Access Control	8, 10
RESL	Robotic Embedded Systems Laboratory	11
ROV	Remote Operated Vehicle	7
SW	Sound Waves	12
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol	8
TIR	Total Internal Reflection	6
TSHD	Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger	3
UDP	User Datagram Protocol	8

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX CRAWLER PARTLIST A

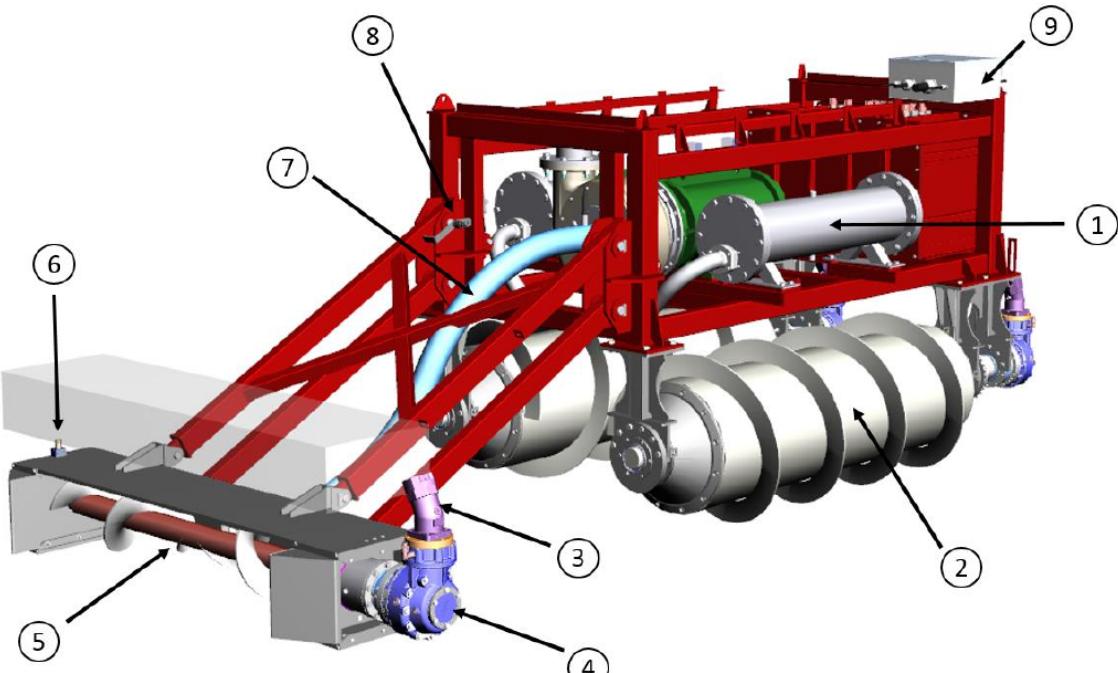
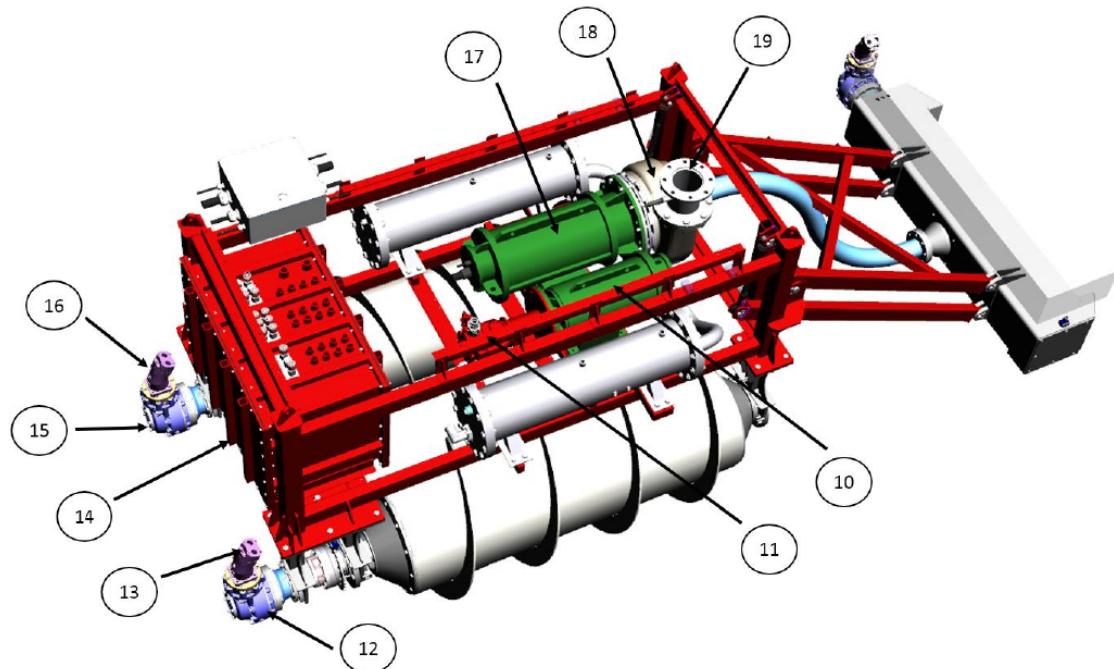


FIGURE A.1: MAJOR PARTLIST SIDEVIEW [31]

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 [31]**

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

APPENDIX B 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 then 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