



Mission Space Lab Phase 4 Report

Team Name: PiNuts

Chosen theme: Life in Space

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Introduction

When we began researching for an experiment idea we came across a picture of astronaut [Chris Hadfield on ISS playing guitar in shorts](#) which led us to wonder how hot it really feels on ISS (heat index).

It turns out apparent temperature is an important factor in demanding environments like on board ISS because it can decrease motor skills and mental performance thus making completing tasks and avoiding errors more difficult.

Our goal is to find out heat index from on-board temperature, pressure and humidity by means of psychrometric calculations.

For a known [humidity level on ISS of around 60%](#) we expect the heat index (HI) to be lower than [28°C](#) (actual temperature being $\leq 27^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $\leq 80^{\circ}\text{F}$) since higher values could pose a threat to crew safety and efficiency (Fig-5).

Method

Our code recorded CPU temperature and sensor-hat readings for temperature, humidity and pressure about every 10 seconds into a csv file. Meanwhile the LED matrix showed different patterns as feedback.

Due to CPU temperature, the sense-hat performs unaccurately (Fig-1) when attached just on top of RaspberryPi so back on Earth we needed to work out a way to tell how far apart are AstroPi readings from the actual values.

In order to get reliable readings to compare sense-hat data with we've tested a DHT22 sensor against a type K thermocouple (Fig-2) and data from the local weather station ([WS-Torredembarra](#)).

From the data series gathered we concluded that the DHT22 sensor performs broadly within specifications.

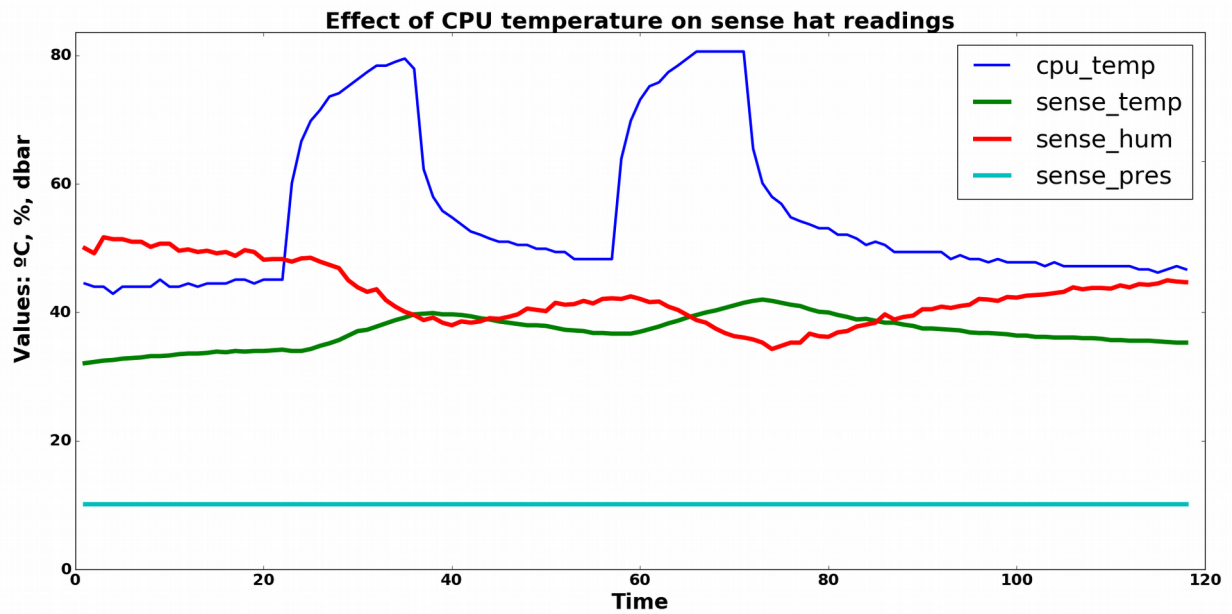
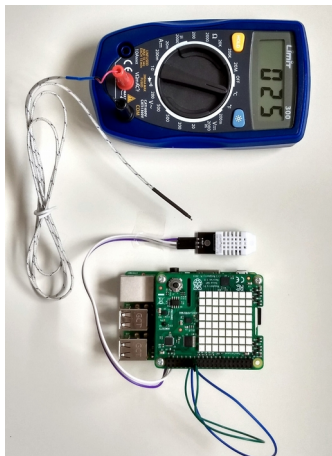


Fig-1: Stress testing CPU (sysbench tool) shows the influence of CPU temperature on sense-hat readings



TIME	DHT Temp	DHT Humid	WS Temp	WS Humid
20200522-090001	21,1	75,1	22,8	76
20200522-101454	22,2	75,2	23,6	78
20200522-110025	22,7	78,6	24,7	78
20200522-120028	23,4	82,4	24,7	80
20200522-130002	23,9	76,4	24,9	76
20200522-140005	25,3	66,8	25,3	72
20200522-150009	25,1	74,9	24,8	72
20200522-160012	26,6	65,2	25,0	74

Fig-2: DHT22 calibration setup on the RaspberryPi 3B from AstroPi kit and data from DHT22 and WS

Measuring simultaneously sense-hat gets about 6 degrees over and 14 points under DHT22 corresponding values for temperature and humidity (Fig-3).

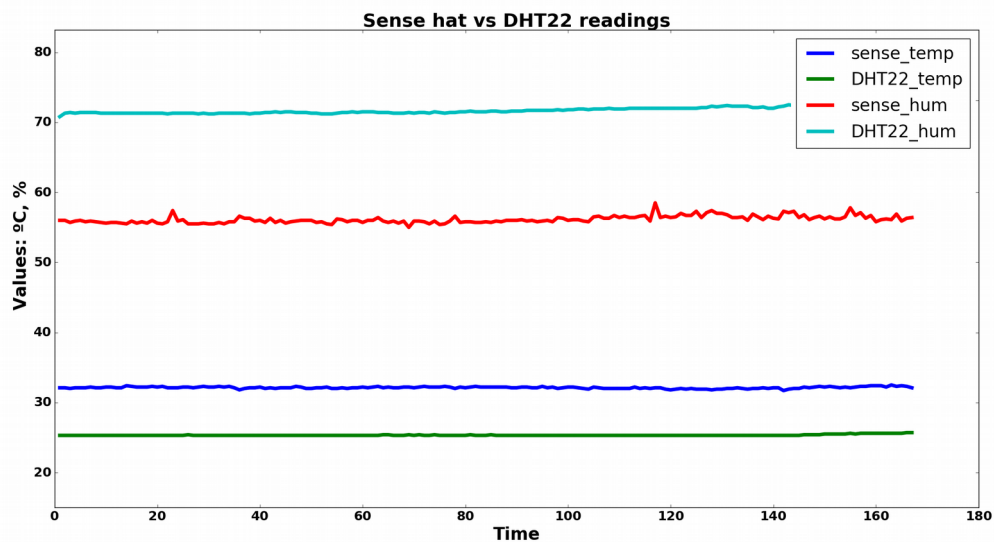


Fig-3

Since AstroPis are model B+ subtracting or adding the aforementioned differences doesn't make much sense. Instead the CPU effect could be taken into account to calculate [correction factors](#) for both magnitudes. This is what it would look like for temperature

$$DHT_temp = sense_temp - \frac{(cpu_temp - sense_temp)}{temp_factor} \rightarrow$$

$$\rightarrow temp_factor = \frac{(cpu_temp - sense_temp)}{(sense_Temp - DHT_Temp)}$$

Finally, the factored T and H values are fed into a HI formula. For the sake of simplicity we've chosen the Australian [APPARENT TEMPERATURE](#) over [NOAA's HEAT INDEX](#) and [CANADIAN HUMIDEX](#).

$$AT = T_a + 0,33 \cdot \rho - 0,70 \cdot ws - 4,00$$

$$\rho = \frac{rh}{100} \cdot 6,105 \cdot e^{\frac{(17,27 \cdot T_a)}{(237,7 + T_a)}}$$

AT is the Apparent Temperature in °C

- **T_a** is the Dry bulb Temperature in °C

- **ρ** is the water vapor pressure (hPa)

- **ws** is the wind speed (m/s)

- **rh** is the Relative Humidity (%)

Results

From AstroPi data we've got average CPU temperature, sense-hat temperature and humidity values of

cpu_temp: 30,4°C

sense_temp: 26,26°C

sense_hum: 42,28%

From our testing series we've got average temperature and humidity factors values

temp_factor: 2,13

hum_factor: 0,78

We use this data to find factored temperature and humidity

$$Factored_temp = sense_temp - \frac{(cpu_temp - sense_temp)}{temp_factor} = 26,26 - \frac{(30,4 - 26,26)}{2,13} = 24,32 \text{ °C}$$

$$Factored_hum = sense_hum - \frac{(cpu_temp - sense_hum)}{hum_factor} = 42,28 - \frac{(30,4 - 42,28)}{0,78} = 57,51 \%$$

Finally from the factored values we find out apparent temperature either using the formulas or looking up the table (Fig-4). [As for air speed we assumed a minimum of 0,5 m/s.](#)

$$\rho = \frac{57,51}{100} \cdot 6,105 \cdot e^{\frac{(17,27 \cdot 24,32)}{(237,7 + 24,32)}} = 17,44$$

$$AT = 24,32 + 0,33 \cdot 17,44 - 0,70 \cdot 0,5 - 4,00 = 25,72 \text{ °C}$$

		Apparent temperature (AT) from temperature and relative humidity - after Steadman 1994																																		
		Temperature (°C)																																		
Relative Humidity (%)		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38																
	0	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
	5	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	
	10	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50		
	15	17	18	19	20	21	22	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50			
	20	17	18	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	28	29	30	31	32	33	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50				
	25	18	19	20	21	22	24	25	26	27	28	29	31	32	33	34	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50					
	30	18	19	21	22	23	24	25	26	28	29	30	31	33	34	35	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50						
	35	19	20	21	22	23	25	26	27	28	30	31	32	34	35	36	38	39	40	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50								
	40	19	20	21	23	24	25	26	28	29	30	32	33	34	36	37	39	40	41	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50									
	45	19	21	22	23	24	26	27	28	30	31	32	34	35	37	38	40	41	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50										
	50	20	21	22	24	25	26	28	29	30	32	33	35	36	38	39	41	42	44	45	46	47	48	49	50											
55	20	22	23	24	25	27	28	30	31	32	34	35	37	38	40	42	43	45	46	47	48	49	50													
60	21	22	23	25	26	27	29	30	32	33	35	36	38	39	41	42	44	46	48	49	50															
65	21	22	24	25	27	28	29	31	32	34	35	37	39	40	42	43	45	47	49	50																
70	21	23	24	26	27	28	30	31	33	35	36	38	39	41	43	44	46	48	50																	
75	22	23	25	26	28	29	31	32	34	35	37	38	40	42	44	45	47	49	50																	
80	22	24	25	27	28	30	31	33	34	36	38	39	41	43	45	46	48	50																		
85	23	24	26	27	29	30	32	33	35	37	38	40	42	44	45	47	49	50																		
90	23	25	26	28	29	31	32	34	36	37	39	41	43	45	46	48	50																			
95	23	25	26	28	30	31	33	35	36	38	40	42	43	45	47	49	50																			
100	24	25	27	29	30	32	33	35	37	39	41	42	44	46	48	50																				

Fig-4: Apparent temperature

NOAA national weather service: heat index											
Temperature	80 °F (27 °C)	82 °F (28 °C)	84 °F (29 °C)	86 °F (30 °C)	88 °F (31 °C)	90 °F (32 °C)	92 °F (33 °C)	94 °F (34 °C)	96 °F (36 °C)		
Relative humidity											
40%	80 °F (27 °C)	81 °F (27 °C)	83 °F (28 °C)	85 °F (29 °C)	88 °F (31 °C)	91 °F (33 °C)	94 °F (34 °C)	97 °F (36 °C)	101 °F (38 °C)		
45%	80 °F (27 °C)	82 °F (28 °C)	84 °F (29 °C)	87 °F (31 °C)	89 °F (32 °C)	93 °F (34 °C)	96 °F (36 °C)	100 °F (38 °C)	104 °F (40 °C)		
50%	81 °F (27 °C)	83 °F (28 °C)	85 °F (29 °C)	88 °F (31 °C)	91 °F (33 °C)	95 °F (35 °C)	99 °F (37 °C)	103 °F (39 °C)	108 °F (42 °C)		
55%	81 °F (27 °C)	84 °F (29 °C)	86 °F (30 °C)	89 °F (32 °C)	93 °F (34 °C)	97 °F (36 °C)	101 °F (38 °C)	106 °F (41 °C)	112 °F (44 °C)		
60%	82 °F (28 °C)	84 °F (29 °C)	88 °F (31 °C)	91 °F (33 °C)	95 °F (35 °C)	100 °F (38 °C)	105 °F (41 °C)	110 °F (43 °C)	116 °F (47 °C)		
65%	82 °F (28 °C)	85 °F (29 °C)	89 °F (32 °C)	93 °F (34 °C)	98 °F (37 °C)	103 °F (39 °C)	108 °F (42 °C)	114 °F (46 °C)	121 °F (49 °C)		
70%	83 °F (28 °C)	86 °F (30 °C)	90 °F (32 °C)	95 °F (35 °C)	100 °F (38 °C)	105 °F (41 °C)	112 °F (44 °C)	119 °F (46 °C)	126 °F (52 °C)		
75%	84 °F (29 °C)	88 °F (31 °C)	92 °F (33 °C)	97 °F (36 °C)	103 °F (39 °C)	109 °F (43 °C)	116 °F (47 °C)	124 °F (51 °C)	132 °F (56 °C)		
80%	84 °F (29 °C)	89 °F (32 °C)	94 °F (34 °C)	100 °F (38 °C)	106 °F (41 °C)	113 °F (45 °C)	121 °F (49 °C)	129 °F (54 °C)			
85%	85 °F (29 °C)	90 °F (32 °C)	96 °F (36 °C)	102 °F (39 °C)	110 °F (43 °C)	117 °F (47 °C)	126 °F (52 °C)	135 °F (57 °C)			
90%	86 °F (30 °C)	91 °F (33 °C)	98 °F (37 °C)	105 °F (41 °C)	113 °F (45 °C)	122 °F (50 °C)	131 °F (55 °C)				
95%	86 °F (30 °C)	93 °F (34 °C)	100 °F (38 °C)	108 °F (42 °C)	117 °F (47 °C)	127 °F (53 °C)					
100%	87 °F (31 °C)	95 °F (35 °C)	103 °F (39 °C)	112 °F (44 °C)	121 °F (49 °C)	132 °F (56 °C)					

Key to colors:

Caution

Extreme caution

Danger

Extreme danger

Key to colors: Caution Extreme caution Danger Extreme danger

Fig-5: NOAA Heat Index thermal discomfort

Conclusion

The results match our initial hypothesis in that apparent temperature is well below 28°C (Fig-5). Despite that fact, we are not extremely confident about the accuracy of the final number because the method used doesn't come without shortcomings.

First, we don't know the flight case dissipation capabilities or the effect of space-hardening treatment on the sense-hat sensors. And second, we run the tests on a Raspberry Pi 3B from the Astro Pi kit whereas actual AstroPis are model B+.

All in all though, we could confirm that ISS crew work in conditions of thermal comfort since resulting AT is beyond "caution area" regarding thermal stress (Fig-5).

We've also noticed that sense-hat performs better outdoors and when mounted with a stacking header instead of simply attached on top of the raspberry.

Unfortunately, we learnt too late about the [get_temperature_from_humidity_and_get_temperature_from_pressure](#) functions so they didn't get into the code.

Nevertheless, we've learnt a lot and now feel encouraged to do more extensive testing on sense-hat performance.

Finally, we would like to thank ESA and RaspberryPi for giving us such an amazing opportunity as well as Josep Palau for his mentoring through this challenge.

Project data and code can be found at:

<https://github.com/jpalau-edu/AstroPi1920/tree/master/PiNuts>