

B.Eng. Dissertation

3D PLOTTING OF AIRCRAFT ATTITUDE

Submitted by
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Muhammad Omer Iqbal: *3d Plotting Of Aircraft Attitude*, Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Engineering), © November 2013

ABSTRACT

Air accident investigations usually involve reading and interpreting large volumes of flight data. Visualising this data, especially in a geographic context makes its analysis easier. Therefore the Air Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) needed a tool that would render a 3 dimensional model of flight data from their datasets. The data includes measurements like latitude, longitude, altitude, heading, roll, thrust etc over time. To meet this criteria I designed a Clojure based application that takes a dataset in csv format and renders aircraft attitude over time on a map. The application generates a KML (Keyhole Markup Language) file which can be opened on Google Earth and displays the 3d model of the data.

SUBJECT DESCRIPTORS:

- Specialized information retrieval
- Information visualization
- Geographic visualization

KEYWORDS: Clojure, KML, Visualisation, Aircraft Attitude, XML generation, 3d Modelling

PUBLICATIONS

Some ideas and figures have appeared previously in the following publications:

Put your publications from the thesis here. The packages `multibib` or `bibtopic` etc. can be used to handle multiple different bibliographies in your document.

*We have seen that computer programming is an art,
because it applies accumulated knowledge to the world,
because it requires skill and ingenuity, and especially
because it produces objects of beauty.*

— ? [?]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my supervisor, Dr. Colin Tan for recommending this project to me and for giving me full independence in the implementation. I would also like to thank Mr. Steven Teo of AAIB for his prompt and helpful feedback over the course of the project.

I also would like to extend my thanks to the clojure community in general for releasing such a magnitude of powerful open source libraries that made this project incredibly fun to work on.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mina, my girlfriend, for being patient.

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LISTINGS

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ACRONYMS

DRY	Don't Repeat Yourself
API	Application Programming Interface
UML	Unified Modeling Language
KML	Keyhole Markup Language
AAIB	Air Accident Investigation Board

Part I

SOME KIND OF MANUAL

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INTRODUCTION

Aircraft systems record large quantities of data during flight. A lot of this data is necessary in the system's proper functioning. It takes an even more significant role when investigating air accidents. As this data establishes the causes behind those accidents, it aids measures to prevent such accidents from occurring. That is the primary reason for why recovery of Flight Data Recorders ¹ is usually a very high priority for aircraft investigations.

The data itself features many components tracked over time, including but not limited to the following²:

- Latitude
- Longitude
- Altitude
- Heading
- Pitch
- Roll
- Engine Thrust
- Throttle Lever Position

As is probably evident, analyzing this largely numeric data by itself would be a painstaking task. Primarily because finding patterns in numbers through observation is inherently difficult. Also because the data set is of a substantially large size ³.

Therefore the need for a tool to visualise this data becomes immediately obvious.

The Air Accident Investigation Board (AAIB), a branch of Singapore's Ministry of Transport performs analysis on such flight data, and requested an application that would render relevant flight data quickly and in a portable manner.

¹ Popularly referred to as 'Blackboxes'

² The following components were part of the sample dataset I was given for testing.

³ I will be cautious before calling it "Big Data".

1.1 SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

AAIB needed the application to meet certain criterias and contain certain core features. These included:

1. **GOOGLE EARTH Compatibility.** Google Earth is a popular “virtual globe, map and geographic information program”. It provides detailed 3d projections of Google’s satellite images on a spherical globe, overlaid with huge quantities of textual and pictorial data varying from international boundaries to streets. There are many good reasons for this requirement including:
 - Cross Platform. It works and is supported on Windows, OSX and Linux ⁴
 - Extensible through the Keyhole Markup Language (KML) ⁵
 - Free⁶
 - AAIB’s familiarity with it
 - Offline use. This is quite important as internet access is not guranteed on accident sites
2. **csv⁷ based input.** The system should be able to use large datasets encoded in CSV.
3. The system should display the data in its geographical location as vectors. The visualization should be able to reflect the actual data in an intuitive way. For instance, vectors at each data point should represent roll, heading, engine throttle
4. Users should be able to select which vectors they want to view.
5. The data points should be manually adjustable from within google earth. This is particularly relevant for data points near landing strips, where measurement errors may cause an offset in the rendered visualization

1.2 STYLE OPTIONS

There are a couple of options for `classicthesis.sty` that allow for a bit of freedom concerning the layout:

- General:

...or your supervisor might use the margins for some comments of her own while reading.

⁴ Atleast the desktop version is supported on all three major Operating Systems.

⁵ A lot more on this later

⁶ As in beer, not speech

⁷ Comma Separated Values

- drafting: prints the date and time at the bottom of each page, so you always know which version you are dealing with. Might come in handy not to give your Prof. that old draft.
- Parts and Chapters:
 - parts: if you use Part divisions for your document, you should choose this option. (Cannot be used together with nochapters.)
 - nochapters: allows to use the look-and-feel with classes that do not use chapters, e.g., for articles. Automatically turns off a couple of other options: eulerchapternumbers, linedheaders, listsseparated, and parts.
 - linedheaders: changes the look of the chapter headings a bit by adding a horizontal line above the chapter title. The chapter number will also be moved to the top of the page, above the chapter title.
- Typography:
 - eulerchapternumbers: use figures from Hermann Zapf’s Euler math font for the chapter numbers. By default, old style figures from the Palatino font are used.
 - beramono: loads Bera Mono as typewriter font. (Default setting is using the standard CM typewriter font.)
 - eulermath: loads the awesome Euler fonts for math. (Palatino is used as default font.)
 - pdfspacing: makes use of pdftex’ letter spacing capabilities via the microtype package.⁸ This fixes some serious issues regarding math formulæ etc. (e.g., “ß”) in headers.
 - minionprospacing: uses the internal textssc command of the MinionPro package for letter spacing. This automatically enables the minionpro option and overrides the pdfspacing option.
- Table of Contents:
 - tocaligned: aligns the whole table of contents on the left side. Some people like that, some don’t.
 - dottedtoc: sets pagenumbers flushed right in the table of contents.
 - manychapters: if you need more than nine chapters for your document, you might not be happy with the spacing between the chapter number and the chapter title in the Table of Contents. This option allows for additional space in

⁸ Use microtype’s DVInoutput option to generate DVI with pdftex.

this context. However, it does not look as “perfect” if you use `\parts` for structuring your document.

- Floats:
 - `listings`: loads the `listings` package (if not already done) and configures the List of Listings accordingly.
 - `floatperchapter`: activates numbering per chapter for all floats such as figures, tables, and listings (if used).
 - `subfigure`: is passed to the `tocloft` package to enable compatibility with the `subfigure` package. Use this option if you want use `classicthesis` with the `subfigure` package.

The best way to figure these options out is to try the different possibilities and see, what you and your supervisor like best.

In order to make things easier in general, `classicthesis-config.tex` contains some useful commands that might help you.

1.3 CUSTOMIZATION

This section will give you some hints about how to adapt `classicthesis` to your needs.

The file `classicthesis.sty` contains the core functionality of the style and in most cases will be left intact, whereas the file `classicthesis-config.tex` is used for some common user customizations.

The first customization you are about to make is to alter the document title, author name, and other thesis details. In order to do this, replace the data in the following lines of `classicthesis-config.tex`:

*Modifications in
classic-
thesis-config.tex*

```
\newcommand{\myTitle}{A Classic Thesis Style\xspace}
\newcommand{\mySubtitle}{An Homage to ... \xspace}
\newcommand{\myDegree}{Doktor-Ingenieur (Dr.-Ing.)\xspace}
```

Further customization can be made in `classicthesis-config.tex` by choosing the options to `classicthesis.sty` (see [Section 1.3](#)) in a line that looks like this:

```
\PassOptionsToPackage{eulerchapternumbers,listings,drafting,
  pdfspacing,subfigure,beramono,eulermath,parts}{classicthesis}
```

If you want to use backreferences from your citations to the pages they were cited on, change the following line from:

```
\setboolean{enable-backrefs}{false}
```

to

```
\setboolean{enable-backrefs}{true}
```

Many other customizations in `classicthesis-config.tex` are possible, but you should be careful making changes there, since some changes could cause errors.

Finally, changes can be made in the file `classicthesis.sty`, al-

*Modifications in
classicthesis.sty*

though this is mostly not designed for user customization. The main change that might be made here is the text-block size, for example, to get longer lines of text.

1.4 ISSUES

This section will list some information about problems using `classicthesis` in general or using it with other packages.

Beta versions of `classicthesis` can be found at the following Google code repository:

<http://code.google.com/p/classicthesis/>

There, you can also post serious bugs and problems you encounter.

Compatibility with the `glossaries` Package

If you want to use the `glossaries` package, take care of loading it with the following options:

```
\usepackage[style=long,nolist]{glossaries}
```

Thanks to Sven Staehs for this information.

Compatibility with the (Spanish) `babel` Package

Spanish languages need an extra option in order to work with this template:

```
\usepackage[spanish,es-lcroman]{babel}
```

Thanks to an unknown person for this information (via Google Code issue reporting).

Compatibility with the `pdfsync` Package

Using the `pdfsync` package leads to linebreaking problems with the `graffito` command. Thanks to Henrik Schumacher for this information.

1.5 FUTURE WORK

So far, this is a quite stable version that served a couple of people well during their thesis time. However, some things are still not as they should be. Proper documentation in the standard format is still missing. In the long run, the style should probably be published separately, with the template bundle being only an application of the style.

Alas, there is no time for that at the moment. . . it could be a nice task for a small group of L^AT_EXnicians.

Please do not send me email with questions concerning L^AT_EX or the template, as I do not have time for an answer. But if you have comments, suggestions, or improvements for the style or the template in general, do not hesitate to write them on that postcard of yours.

1.6 LICENSE

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This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but *without any warranty*; without even the implied warranty of *merchantability* or *fitness for a particular purpose*. See the GNU General Public License for more details.

Part II

THE SHOWCASE

You can put some informational part preamble text here. Illo principalmente su nos. Non message *occidental* anglo-romanica da. Debitas effortio simplicate sia se, auxiliar summarios da que, se avantiate publicationes via. Pan in terra summarios, capital interlingua se que. Al via multo esser specimen, campo responder que da. Le usate medical addresses pro, europa origine sanctificate nos se.

EXAMPLES

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2.1 A NEW SECTION

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Examples: *Italics*, ALL CAPS, SMALL CAPS, LOW SMALL CAPS¹.

2.1.1 Test for a Subsection

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Note: The content of this chapter is just some dummy text.

¹ Footnote example.

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2.2 ANOTHER SECTION IN THIS CHAPTER

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LABEL TEST 2: Morbi luctus, wisi viverra faucibus pretium, nibh est placerat odio, nec commodo wisi enim eget quam. Quisque libero justo, consectetur a, feugiat vitae, porttitor eu, libero. Suspendisse sed mauris vitae elit sollicitudin malesuada. Maecenas ultricies eros sit amet ante. Ut venenatis velit. Maecenas sed mi eget dui varius euismod. Phasellus aliquet volutpat odio. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae; Pellentesque sit amet pede ac sem eleifend consectetur. Nullam elementum, urna vel imperdiet sodales, elit ipsum pharetra ligula, ac pretium ante justo a nulla. Curabitur tristique arcu eu metus. Vestibulum lectus. Proin mauris. Proin eu nunc eu urna hendrerit faucibus. Aliquam auctor, pede consequat laoreet varius, eros tellus scelerisque quam, pellentesque hendrerit ipsum dolor sed augue. Nulla nec lacus.

This statement requires citation ? [?].

2.2.1 *Personas Initialmente*

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² De web nostre historia angloromanic.

LABITUR BONORUM PRI NO	QUE VISTA	HUMAN
fastidii ea ius	germano	demonstratea
suscipit instructor	titulo	personas
quaestio philosophia	facto	demonstrated ?

Table 1: Autem timeam deleniti usu id. ?

2.2.1.1 A Subsubsection

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A PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE Etiam euismod. Fusce facilisis lacinia dui. Suspendisse potenti. In mi erat, cursus id, nonummy sed, ullamcorper eget, sapien. Praesent pretium, magna in eleifend egestas, pede pede pretium lorem, quis consectetur tortor sapien facilisis magna. Mauris quis magna varius nulla scelerisque imperdiet. Aliquam non quam. Aliquam porttitor quam a lacus. Praesent vel arcu ut tortor cursus volutpat. In vitae pede quis diam bibendum placerat. Fusce elementum convallis neque. Sed dolor orci, scelerisque ac, dapibus nec, ultricies ut, mi. Duis nec dui quis leo sagittis commodo.

- A. Enumeration with small caps
- B. Second item

Another statement requiring citation ? [?] but this time with text after the citation.

2.2.2 Figure Citations

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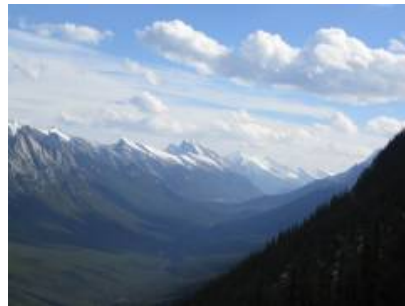
Lo sed apprende instruite. Que altere responder su, pan ma, i.e., signo studio. [Figure 1b](#) Instruite preparation le duo, asia altere tentation web su. Via unic facto rapide de, iste questiones methodicamente o uno, nos al.



(a) Asia personas duo.



(b) Pan ma signo.



(c) Methodicamente o uno.



(d) Titulo debitas.

Figure 1: Tu duo titulo debitas latente.

Aliquam lectus. Vivamus leo. Quisque ornare tellus ullamcorper nulla. Mauris porttitor pharetra tortor. Sed fringilla justo sed mauris. Mauris tellus. Sed non leo. Nullam elementum, magna in cursus sodales, augue est scelerisque sapien, venenatis congue nulla arcu et pede. Ut suscipit enim vel sapien. Donec congue. Maecenas urna mi, suscipit in, placerat ut, vestibulum ut, massa. Fusce ultrices nulla et nisl.

3.1 SOME FORMULAS

Due to the statistical nature of ionisation energy loss, large fluctuations can occur in the amount of energy deposited by a particle traversing an absorber element¹. Continuous processes such as multiple scattering and energy loss play a relevant role in the longitudinal and lateral development of electromagnetic and hadronic showers, and in the case of sampling calorimeters the measured resolution can be significantly affected by such fluctuations in their active layers. The description of ionisation fluctuations is characterised by the significance parameter κ , which is proportional to the ratio of mean energy loss to the maximum allowed energy transfer in a single collision with an atomic electron:

$$\kappa = \frac{\xi}{E_{\max}} \quad (1)$$

E_{\max} is the maximum transferable energy in a single collision with an atomic electron.

$$E_{\max} = \frac{2m_e\beta^2\gamma^2}{1 + 2\gamma m_e/m_x + (m_e/m_x)^2},$$

where $\gamma = E/m_x$, E is energy and m_x the mass of the incident particle, $\beta^2 = 1 - 1/\gamma^2$ and m_e is the electron mass. ξ comes from the Rutherford scattering cross section and is defined as:

$$\xi = \frac{2\pi z^2 e^4 N_{Av} Z \rho \delta x}{m_e \beta^2 c^2 A} = 153.4 \frac{z^2}{\beta^2} \frac{Z}{A} \rho \delta x \quad \text{keV},$$

where

You might get unexpected results using math in chapter or section heads. Consider the pdfspacing option.

¹ Examples taken from Walter Schmidt's great gallery:
<http://home.vrweb.de/~was/mathfonts.html>

z	charge of the incident particle
N_{Av}	Avogadro's number
Z	atomic number of the material
A	atomic weight of the material
ρ	density
δx	thickness of the material

κ measures the contribution of the collisions with energy transfer close to E_{\max} . For a given absorber, κ tends towards large values if δx is large and/or if β is small. Likewise, κ tends towards zero if δx is small and/or if β approaches 1.

The value of κ distinguishes two regimes which occur in the description of ionisation fluctuations:

1. A large number of collisions involving the loss of all or most of the incident particle energy during the traversal of an absorber.

As the total energy transfer is composed of a multitude of small energy losses, we can apply the central limit theorem and describe the fluctuations by a Gaussian distribution. This case is applicable to non-relativistic particles and is described by the inequality $\kappa > 10$ (i.e., when the mean energy loss in the absorber is greater than the maximum energy transfer in a single collision).

2. Particles traversing thin counters and incident electrons under any conditions.

The relevant inequalities and distributions are $0.01 < \kappa < 10$, Vavilov distribution, and $\kappa < 0.01$, Landau distribution.

3.2 VARIOUS MATHEMATICAL EXAMPLES

If $n > 2$, the identity

$$t[u_1, \dots, u_n] = t[t[u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}], t[u_n, \dots, u_n]]$$

defines $t[u_1, \dots, u_n]$ recursively, and it can be shown that the alternative definition

$$t[u_1, \dots, u_n] = t[t[u_1, u_2], \dots, t[u_{n-1}, u_n]]$$

gives the same result.

Part III

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TEST

Aliquam lectus. Vivamus leo. Quisque ornare tellus ullamcorper nulla. Mauris porttitor pharetra tortor. Sed fringilla justo sed mauris. Mauris tellus. Sed non leo. Nullam elementum, magna in cursus sodales, augue est scelerisque sapien, venenatis congue nulla arcu et pede. Ut suscipit enim vel sapien. Donec congue. Maecenas urna mi, suscipit in, placerat ut, vestibulum ut, massa. Fusce ultrices nulla et nisl.

Etiam ac leo a risus tristique nonummy. Donec dignissim tincidunt nulla. Vestibulum rhoncus molestie odio. Sed lobortis, justo et pretium lobortis, mauris turpis condimentum augue, nec ultricies nibh arcu pretium enim. Nunc purus neque, placerat id, imperdiet sed, pellentesque nec, nisl. Vestibulum imperdiet neque non sem accumsan laoreet. In hac habitasse platea dictumst. Etiam condimentum facilisis libero. Suspendisse in elit quis nisl aliquam dapibus. Pellentesque auctor sapien. Sed egestas sapien nec lectus. Pellentesque vel dui vel neque bibendum viverra. Aliquam porttitor nisl nec pede. Proin mattis libero vel turpis. Donec rutrum mauris et libero. Proin euismod porta felis. Nam lobortis, metus quis elementum commodo, nunc lectus elementum mauris, eget vulputate ligula tellus eu neque. Vivamus eu dolor.

A.1 APPENDIX SECTION TEST

Nulla in ipsum. Praesent eros nulla, congue vitae, euismod ut, commodo a, wisi. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Aenean nonummy magna non leo. Sed felis erat, ullamcorper in, dictum non, ultricies ut, lectus. Proin vel arcu a odio lobortis euismod. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae; Proin ut est. Aliquam odio. Pellentesque massa turpis, cursus eu, euismod nec, tempor congue, nulla. Duis viverra gravida mauris. Cras tincidunt. Curabitur eros ligula, varius ut, pulvinar in, cursus faucibus, augue.

More dummy text

Nulla mattis luctus nulla. Duis commodo velit at leo. Aliquam vulputate magna et leo. Nam vestibulum ullamcorper leo. Vestibulum condimentum rutrum mauris. Donec id mauris. Morbi molestie justo et pede. Vivamus eget turpis sed nisl cursus tempor. Curabitur mollis sapien condimentum nunc. In wisi nisl, malesuada at, dignissim sit amet, lobortis in, odio. Aenean consequat arcu a ante. Pellentesque porta elit sit amet orci. Etiam at turpis nec elit ultricies imperdiet. Nulla facilisi. In hac habitasse platea dictumst. Suspendisse

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suscipit instructor	titulo	personas
quaestio philosophia	facto	demonstrated

Table 2: Autem usu id.

Listing 1: A floating example

```

4 for i:=maxint to 0 do
  begin
    { do nothing }
  end;
```

viverra aliquam risus. Nullam pede justo, molestie nonummy, scelerisque eu, facilisis vel, arcu.

A.2 ANOTHER APPENDIX SECTION TEST

Curabitur tellus magna, porttitor a, commodo a, commodo in, tortor. Donec interdum. Praesent scelerisque. Maecenas posuere sodales odio. Vivamus metus lacus, varius quis, imperdiet quis, rhoncus a, turpis. Etiam ligula arcu, elementum a, venenatis quis, sollicitudin sed, metus. Donec nunc pede, tincidunt in, venenatis vitae, faucibus vel, nibh. Pellentesque wisi. Nullam malesuada. Morbi ut tellus ut pede tincidunt porta. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Etiam congue neque id dolor.

Donec et nisl at wisi luctus bibendum. Nam interdum tellus ac libero. Sed sem justo, laoreet vitae, fringilla at, adipiscing ut, nibh. Maecenas non sem quis tortor eleifend fermentum. Etiam id tortor ac mauris porta vulputate. Integer porta neque vitae massa. Maecenas tempus libero a libero posuere dictum. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae; Aenean quis mauris sed elit commodo placerat. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia nostra, per inceptos hymenaeos. Vivamus rhoncus tincidunt libero. Etiam elementum pretium justo. Vivamus est. Morbi a tellus eget pede tristique commodo. Nulla nisl. Vestibulum sed nisl eu sapien cursus rutrum.

COLOPHON

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DECLARATION

Put your declaration here.

Singapore, November 2013

Muhammad Omer Iqbal,
November 2, 2013