STERG

SOLAR THERMAL ENERGY RESEARCH GROUP

State Estimation of Drones

Author: V van der Merwe
Supervisor: Dr WJ Smit

Solar Thermal Energy Research Group
Stellenbosch University

Problem Statement

- Automate Tasks at CSP Plants
- Heliostat Calibration
- Computer Vision Algorithm
- Accurate State Estimation

Background

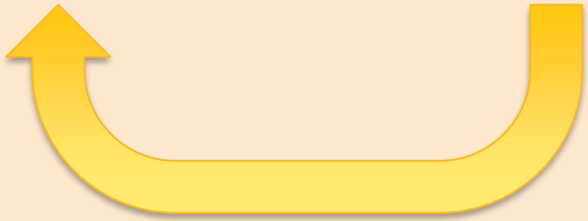
- What is State Estimation ?
- How does it work ?
- Better Estimation – Better Control

Background

Hardware

Background

Barometer Phenomena

Head Wind	Tail Wind
	

Research Question

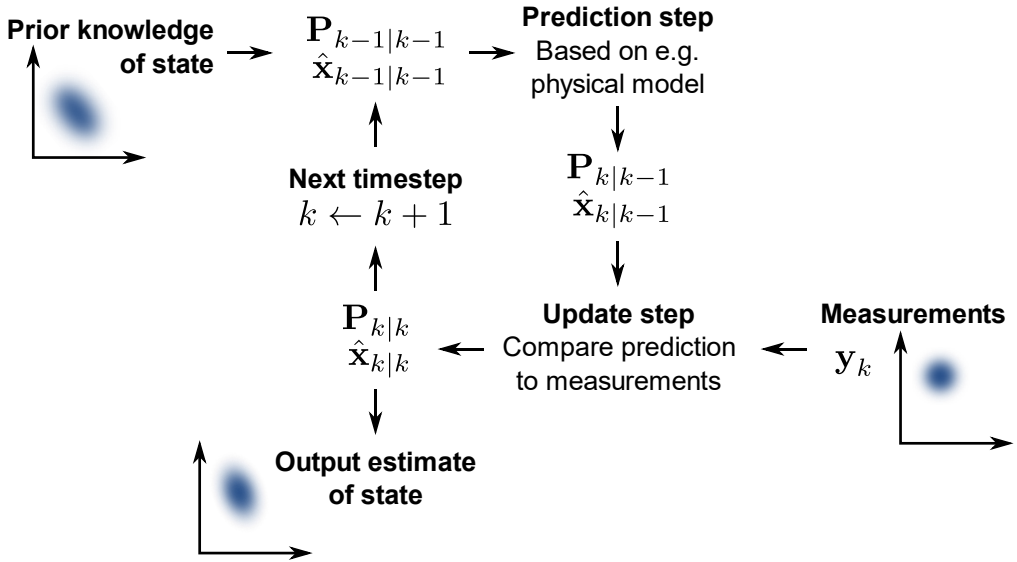
- How and to what degree can the altitude estimate of a multirotor aerial vehicle be improved?

Methodology

- Current Methods of State Estimation
- Sensors used
- Data Collection & Analysis
- Simulations

Methodology

Kalman Filter



Methodology

Kalman Filter

Prediction:

$$\hat{x}_k^- = A\hat{x}_{k-1} + Bu_k$$

$$P_k^- = AP_{k-1}A^T + Q$$

Update:

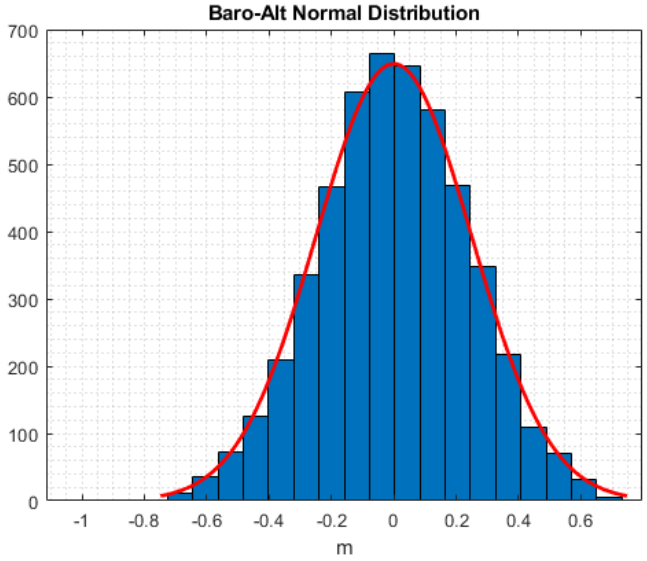
$$K_k = P_k^- H^T (HP_k^- H^T + R)^{-1}$$

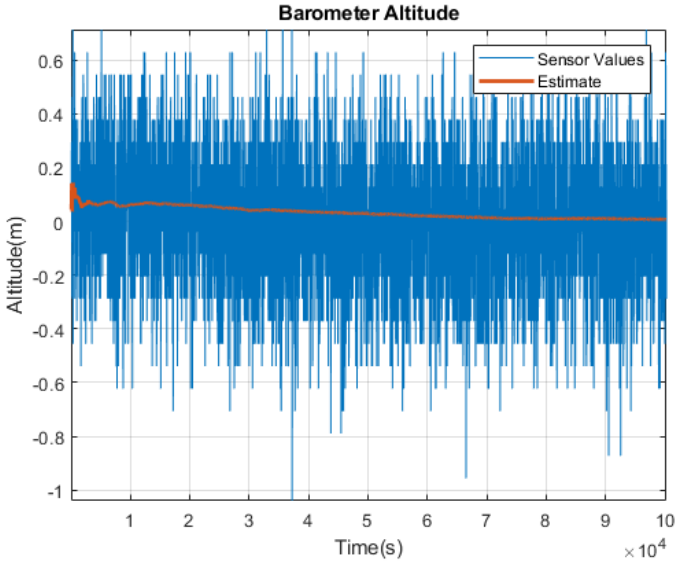
$$\hat{x}_k = \hat{x}_k^- + K_k(z_k - H\hat{x}_k^-)$$

$$P_k = (I - K_k H)P_k^-$$

Results

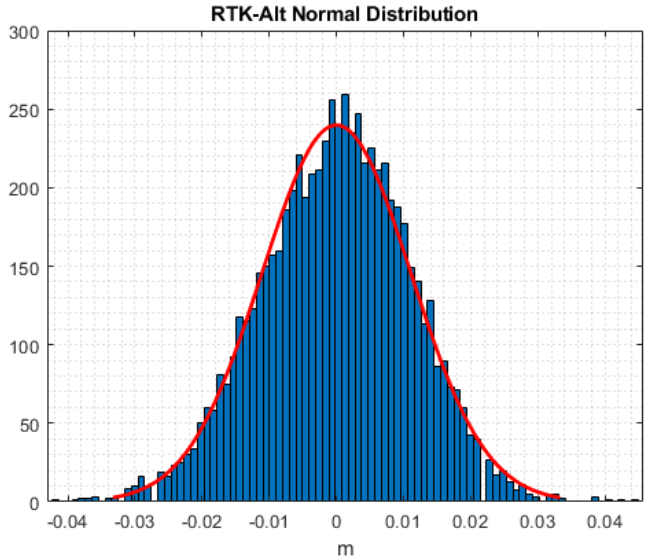
Barometer - Pixhawk

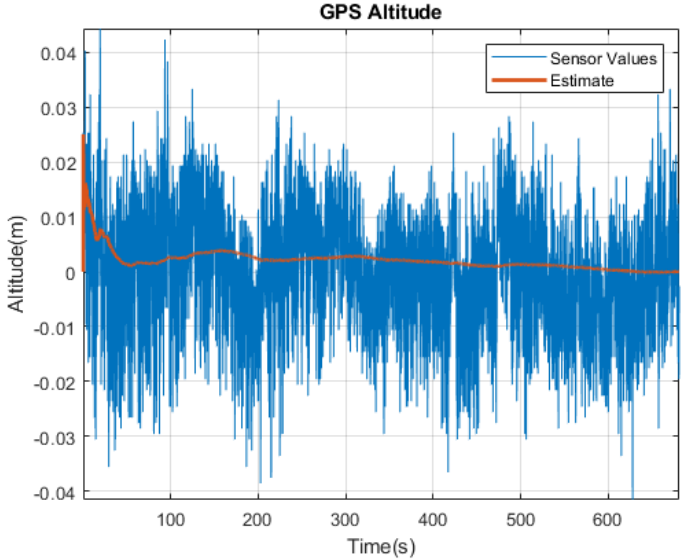




Results

Piksi RTK GPS



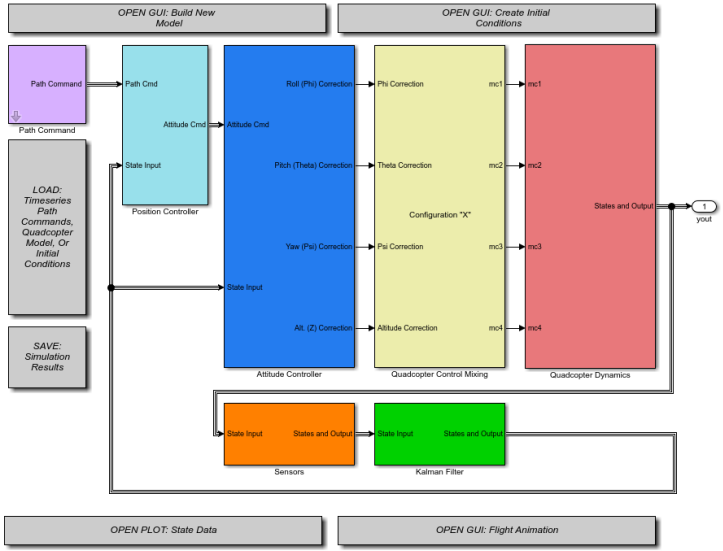


Analysis

- Accurate Estimation
- Sensor Noise
- Computational Load

Further Development

- Sensor Fusion
- Simulations



Conclusion

- Performance
- Accuracy
- Sensor Fusion

Thank You

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Willie

Nic

CONTACT DETAILS:

17030730@sun.ac.za
Solar Thermal Energy Research Group (STERG)
Stellenbosch University
South Africa

STERG@sun.ac.za
+27 (0)21 808 4016

visit us: concentrating.sun.ac.za