

An accurate altitude estimator for an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)

NJ Minnaar & WJ Smit

Solar Thermal Energy Research Group (STERG),
University of Stellenbosch

Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies (CRSES),
University of Stellenbosch

Content

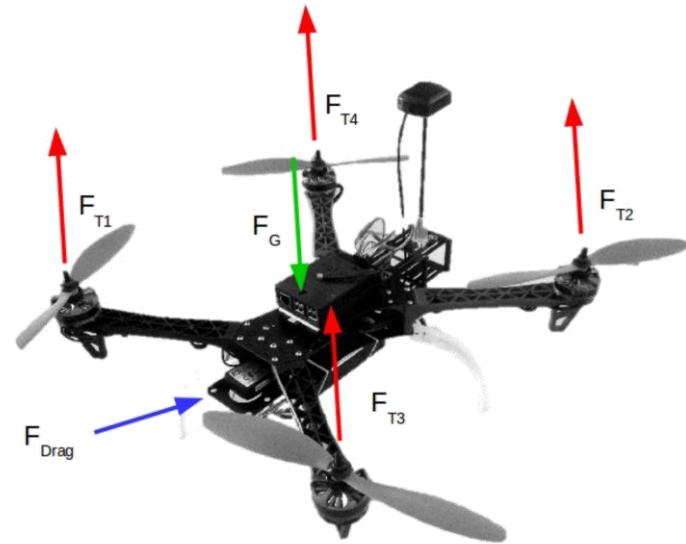


- **Background**
- **Methodology**
 - Problem Formulation
 - Simulation
 - Experimentation
 - Results
- **Conclusions**

Background

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

- What are UAVs?
- How may UAVs serve a CSP plant?



Background

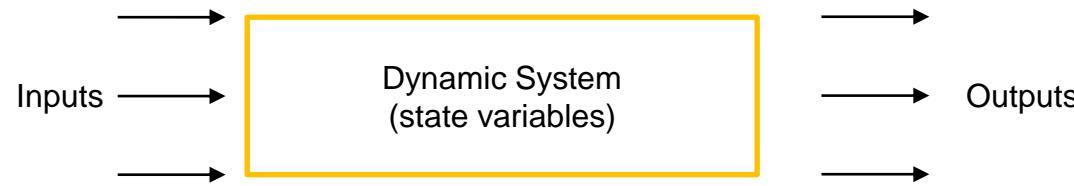
Challenges

- Obstacle Avoidance
- Accurate Navigation
 - Control System
 - State Estimation



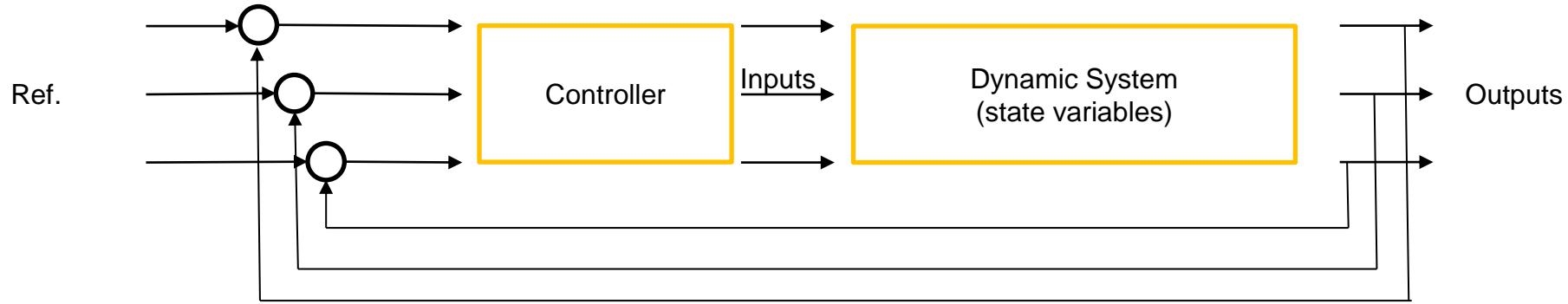
Background

System Modelling



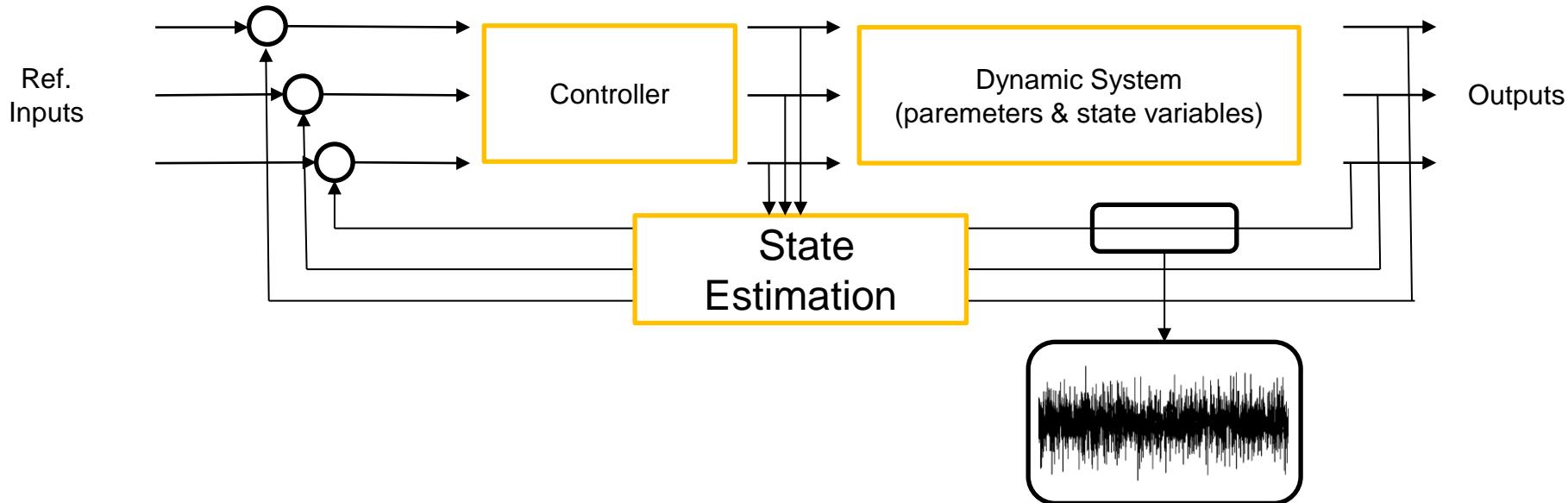
Background

Feedback Control



Background

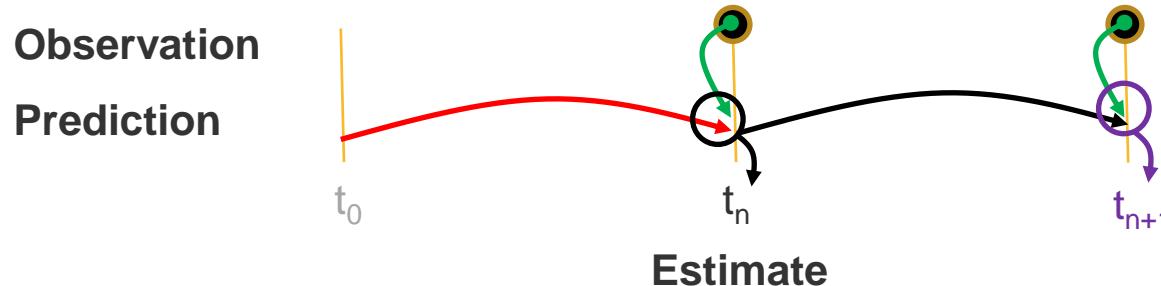
State Estimation



Background

The Kalman Filter

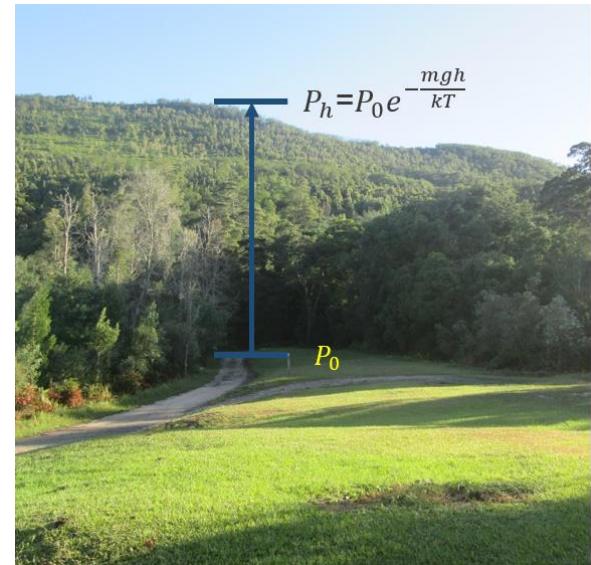
- Sensor fusion
- Iterative (Real time)



Methodology

Problem Formulation & Proposed Solution

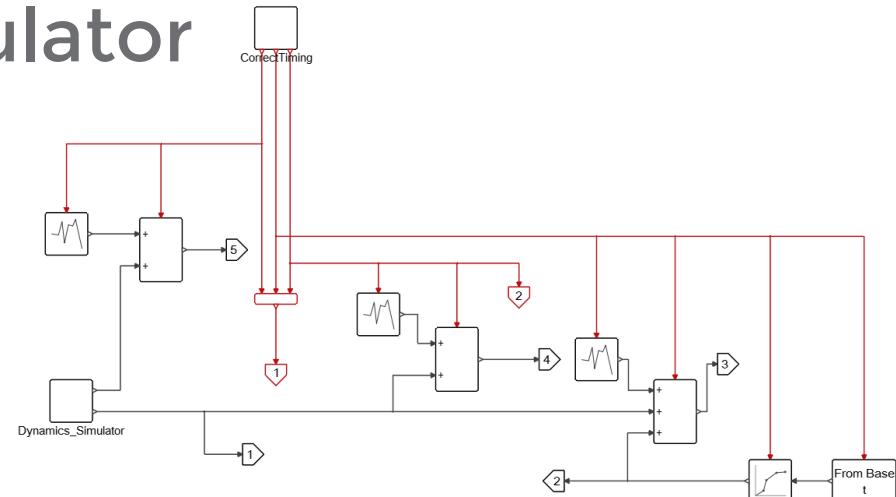
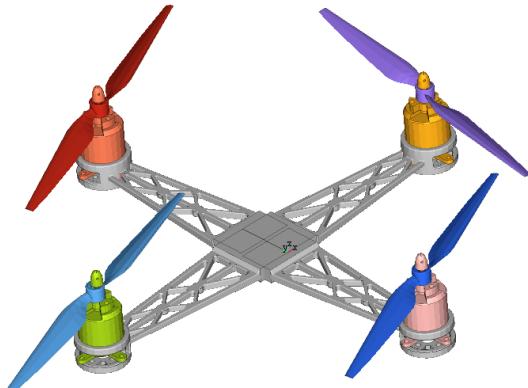
- Bad altitude estimates
- Fuse accelerometer/ GPS



Methodology

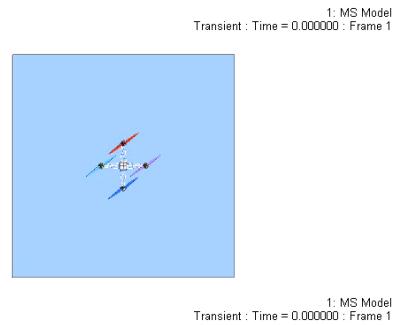
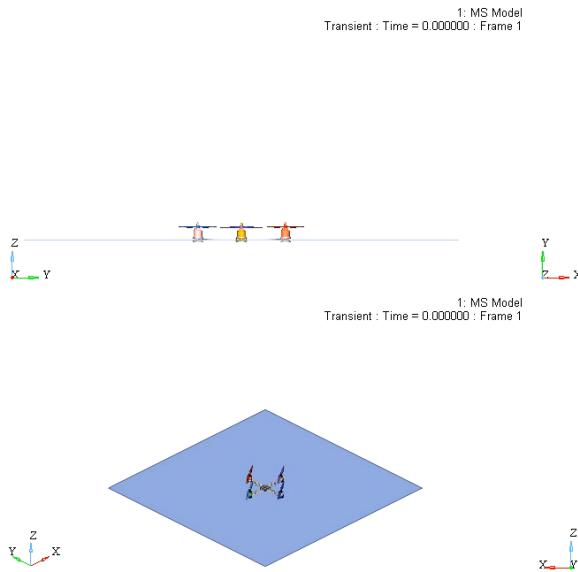
Simulation

- System Identification
- Measurement Simulator



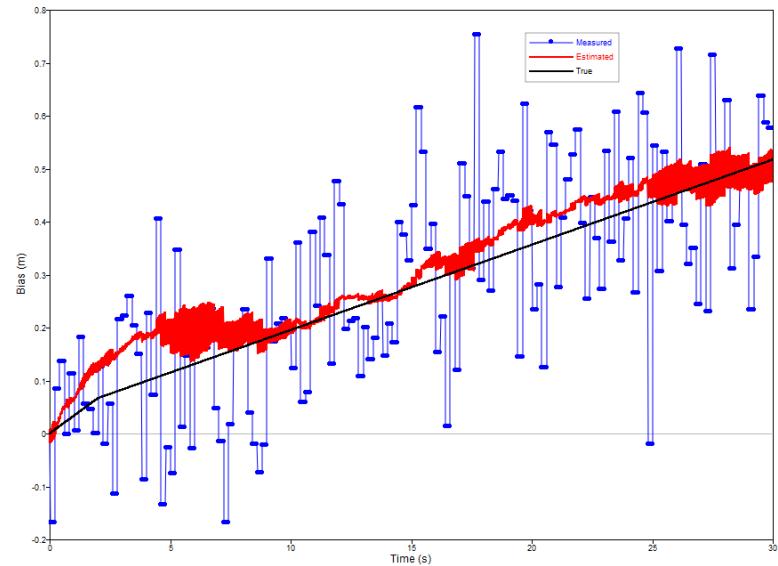
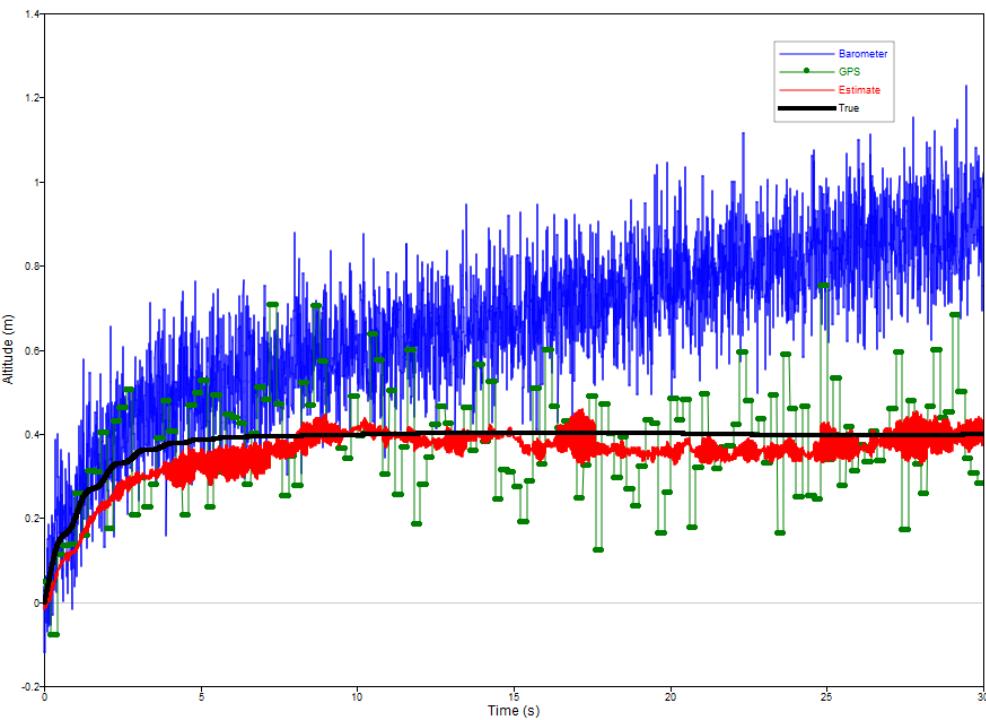
Methodology

Simulation Details



Methodology

Simulation Results



Methodology

Current/Future Work

- Implementation (Pixhawk Autopilot)
- Experimental validation of estimation performance

Conclusions

- Better Estimates than what any one sensor can provide alone
- Estimator does not suffer pitfalls of individual sensors
- Estimator is not sensitive to environmental changes

Thank You

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

NRF,CRSES,STERG,
M&M Engineering

CONTACT DETAILS:

Nicholas Minnaar
Solar Thermal Energy Research
Group (STERG)
Stellenbosch University
South Africa

16602544@sun.ac.
za
+27 (0)21 808 4016

visit us: concentrating.sun.ac.za