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 - 2. Precise Point Positioning (PPP) concept

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GNSS Positioning

Standalone Positioning: GNSS receiver autonomous positioning using broadcast orbits and clocks.



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GNSS Positioning

Differential Positioning: GNSS augmented with data (differential corrections or measurements) from a single reference station or a reference station network.





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Errors are similar for users separated tens, even hundred of kilometres, and these errors are removed/mitigated in differential mode, improving positioning.

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Reviewing the GNSS positioning concept



This picture is from https://gpsfleettrackingexpert.wordpress.com

- GNSS uses technique of "triangulation" to find user location
- To "**triangulate**" a GNSS receiver needs:
 - To know the satellite coordinates and clock synchronism errors:
 → Satellites broadcast orbits parameters and clock offsets.
 - <u>To measure distances from satellites</u>:
 - → This is done measuring the traveling time of radio signals: ("Pseudo-ranges": Code and Carrier measurements)
 - Measurements must be corrected by several error sources: Atmospheric propagation, relativity, clock offsets, instrumental delays...

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Satellite Orbit and clock accuracies



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Service (IGS) server http://igscb.jpl.nasa.gov

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Ranging signals measurement noise



Comparison of measurement noise of LC and PC: GUSN, PRN14



Two different types of measurements:

- <u>Code</u> measurements are <u>noisy</u> but <u>unambiguous</u> (metre level measurement noise).
 - **Carrier** measurements are precise but ambiguous, meaning that they have some millimetres of noise, but also have "<u>unknown carrier biases"</u> that could reach thousands of km.

Carrier biases are estimated in the navigation filter along with the other parameters (coordinates, clock offsets, etc.).

Note: Figure shows the noise of code and carrier prefit-residuals, which are the input data for navigation equations.

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L₁ Carrier is Ambiguous measurement. P₁ Code is Not ambiguous

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GNSS Positioning

Standalone Positioning: GNSS receiver autonomous positioning using broadcast orbits and clocks.





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Errors on the signal



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Examples of model terms and their impact of user positioning

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GNSS Positioning

Differential Positioning: GNSS augmented with data (differential corrections or measurements) from a single reference station or a reference station network.







Errors are similar for users separated tens, even hundred of kilometres, and these errors are removed/mitigated in differential mode, improving positioning.



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- Space Segment Errors:
 - Clock errors
 - Ephemeris errors
- Propagation Errors
 - Ionospheric delay
 - Tropospheric delay
- Local Errors
 - Multipath
 - Receiver noise





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Selective Availability (S/A) was an intentional degradation of

public GPS signals implemented for US national security reasons.

S/A was turned off at May 2nd 2000 (Day-Of-Year 123).

It was permanently removed in 2008, and not included in the next generations of GPS satellites.

In the 1990s, the S/A motivated the development of DGPS.

-These systems typically computed PseudoRange Corrections (PRC) and Range-Rate Corrections (RRC) every 5-10 seconds.

- With S/A=off the life of the corrections was increased to more than one minute.







Session 7a, exercise 2g: bell (PC) Absolute Kinem. Pos. (Broadcast orbits and clocks)



The determination of the vector between the receivers APCs (i.e. the baseline "b') is more accurate than the single receiver solution, because common errors cancel





Session 7a, exercise 2g: ebre (PC) Absolute Kinem. Pos. (Broadcast orbits and clocks)



Differential GNSS (DGNSS): absolute position



If the coordinates of the reference receiver are known, thence the reference receiver can estimate its positioning error, which can be transmitted to the user. Then, the user can apply these corrections to improve the positioning Note: Actually the corrections are computed in range domain (i.e. for each satellite) instead of in the position domain.

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In the previous example, the differential error has been cancelled in the "position" domain *(i.e. solution domain approach*). **But it requires to use the same satellites in both stations.**

Thence, is much better to solve the problem in the "**range domain**" than in the "position" domain. That is, to provide corrections for each satellite in view *(i.e. range domain approach*):



The reference station, with known coordinates , computes range corrections for each satellite in view. These <u>corrections are broadcasted</u> to the user. The user applies these corrections to compute its "absolute position".

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Code Based Differential positioning (DGNSS)



- The **reference station** with known coordinates, computes pseudorange and range-rate corrections: $PRC = \rho_{ref} P_{ref}$, $RRC = \Delta PRC/\Delta t$.
- The **user** receiver applies the PRC and RRC to correct its own measurements, $P_{user} + (PRC + RRC(t-t_0))$, removing SIS errors and improving the positioning accuracy.

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Code DGNSS







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Differential Positioning Performance



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Differential Corrections



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Differential Message Broadcast PRC. RRC User

Errors are similar for users separated tens, even hundred of km, and are removed/mitigated in differential mode, improving positioning.



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Other DGNSS using smoothed code <u>but for Safety of Life</u> applications:

Among the accuracy, the main target is to provide <u>integrity</u>!!!

- To provide timely alarms in case of GNSS signal failure.
- To provide information to users to compute the level of trust (such as confidence bounds) that can be applied to the GNSS signals.







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Local Area DGNSS (LADGNSS): GBAS

LADGNSS includes a Master station and several monitor stations. The master station collects the range measurements of the monitor stations and process the data to generate the range corrections, which are broadcasted to users.

• In Local Area Augmentation System (**LAAS**) or the Ground Based Augmentation System (GBAS), a ground facility computes differential corrections and integrity data from measurements collected by several redundant receivers.

This system is designed to support aircraft operations during approach and landing. The differential corrections are transmitted on a VHF channel, up to about 40km.

Metre level accuracies with integrity fulfilling the stringent requirements of Civil Aviation are met.

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Wide Area DGNSS (WADGNSS)

To cover a wide-area is more suitable to broadcast corrections for each error source separately: Satellite clocks, ephemeris and ionosphere.

These corrections are computed by a Central Processing Facility (CPF) from the range measurements of the monitor stations network with baselines of several hundreds up to thousand of kilometres.

Geostationary Satellite

Wide Area

Master Station

• Examples using <u>L1 carrier</u> <u>smoothed code</u> are the Satellite Based Augmentation Systems (SBAS), e.g. WAAS, EGNOS, MSASS, GAGAN ... for Civil Aviation, where differential corrections and integrity data fulfilling the Civil aviation requirements are broadcast over continental areas by a GEO satellite.

Metre level accuracies with integrity are met. Evolution to a dual frequency

(L1,L5) signals in the Aeronautical Radio Navigation Service protected band.

Ground

Earth

Station

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GPS Satellites



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High Accuracy Positioning

Carrier based Differential Positioning techniques:

• <u>Relative GNSS positioning</u> (e.g. RTK, Network-RTK)

→ At least two operating receivers are needed. It makes use of the spatial correlation of the errors between stations to remove/mitigate their effects in differential mode, improving accuracy.

<u>Precise absolute (point) positioning</u> (e.g. PPP, PPP-AR, Fast-PPP)

→ It uses observation data of a single receiver and additionally state information on individual GNSS errors (orbits, clocks...) derived from a GNSS network.



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Precise Point Positioning (PPP) (x,y,z)User Satellite Clocks Ephemeris Atmospheric Delay: Multipath Receiver Clocks, etc

> cm – dm level. World wide. Best part of one hour.

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Carrier based Differential positioning: **RTK**

Centimetre level accuracy positioning in real-time based on GPS (or GNSS) was developed in mid 1990s and nowadays is referred as RTK



It involves a reference receiver transmitting its raw measurements to a rover receiver via some sort of communication link (e.g. VHF or UHF radio, cellular phone). The data processing at the rover receiver includes ambiguity resolution of the differential carrier data and coordinate estimation of the rover position.

Users within some ten of kilometres can obtain centimetre level positioning. The baseline is **limited by the differential ionospheric error** that can reach up to 10cm, or more, in 10km, depending of the ionospheric activity.

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Real-Time-Kinematics (RTK)

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html

Comparison of measurement noise of LC and PC: GUSN, PRN14



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- Code measurements are unambiguous but noisy (metre level noise).
- **Carrier** measurements are precise (few millimetres of noise) but ambiguous (the unknown biases can reach thousands of km).
- Carrier phase biases are estimated in the navigation filter along with the other parameters (coordinates, clock offsets, etc.). If these biases were fixed, measurements accurate to the level of few millimetres would be available for positioning. However, some time is needed to decorrelate such biases from the other parameters in the filter, and the estimated values are not fully unbiased.

Double Differences (DD) and RTK: AMBIG. FIX

RTK uses DD measurements to:

- Remove differential errors (cm level short baselines)
- Benefit of the integer nature of DD ambiguities

Carrier ambiguities contains (real-valued) hardware biases

 $B_{rec}^{sat} = \lambda N_{rec}^{sat} + b_{rec} + b^{sat}$

But, they cancel in Double Differences (DD) between pairs of satellites and receivers.

Thence the double differenced carrier ambiguities are integer numbers of wavelengths:

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PRN06 (ref)

UPC1 (ref)

PRNXX

UPC2 (user)

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The key feature of RTK is the ability to fix the carrier ambiguities On-The-Flight (OTF), i.e. while on the move. Major receivers manufacturers offer RTK solution packages consisting on a pair or receivers, a radio link, and software. The performance of RTK is measured by (i) initialization time, and (ii) reliability (or, correctness) of the ambiguity fixing. There is an obvious tradeoff between getting the answer quickly and getting it right.

For typical <u>baselines up to 10 km</u>, integer ambiguity resolution in few tens of seconds is common, achieving centimetre error level of accuracy.





gAGE dAGE/UPC research group of Astronomy and Geomatics ן נ Ш a H **Barcelon** The main drawback of the single base RTK is that the maximum distance between rover and reference stations cannot exceed 10 to 20 km in order to be able to rapidly and reliably resolve the carrier ambiguities.

- ➔ Many reference stations are needed to provide service to a larger region or a whole country (e.g. 30 stations to cover 10.000 km²) (e.g. Corsica -8.000 km²- or Cyprus islands -9.000 km²-).
- This limitation comes from the distance-dependent biases such as differential atmospheric refraction (Ionosphere, Troposphere), mainly, and orbit error, as well.

These errors, however can be accurately modelled from the measurements collected by a continuously operating reference stations network, surrounding the rover receivers.



Virtual Reference Station http://water.usgs.gov/osw/gps/real-time_network.html

The basic scenario for VRS surveying is as follows:

- The user sends its approximate position to the Real-Time Network (RTN) system using a cell phone (or other communication method).
- The RTN system emulates a virtual reference station, in close proximity to the user based on the position sent.

→ The RTN system computes and sends "virtually shifted measurements" as if a real base station were broadcasting from the location of the virtual reference station.



After initialization, the survey proceeds in exactly the same manner as an RTK survey. No receiver upgrade is needed (regarding to RTK).





Limitations of Network-RTK include:

- Limitation in the distance between reference stations (over 50-100km), which depends on the geographic location of the network and the level of ionospheric activity.
- There is a high cost of setting up and maintaining the RTN:
 - → Note: With typical baselines between reference stations of 50-100 km, about 5 to 10 reference stations are still needed per 10.000 km² (e.g. Corsica -8.000 km²- or Cyprus islands -9.000 km²-).
- Use of the RTN is limited by data link coverage and system latencies or down times.
- Availability is dependent on network extent and accuracy can be affected by the network density.
- In the case of VRS, it requires a two way communication link. Then, the number of potential VRS users is limited.



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Precise Point Positioning (PPP) (x,y,z)User

> cm – dm level. World wide. Best part of one hour.

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Precise (Absolute) Point Positioning: PPP

Zumberge et al. (1997), proposed the Precise Point Positioning (PPP) method for absolute positioning of a single receiver.

Using precise orbits and clocks (post-processed or Real-time, e.g. from IGS) and with an accurate measurements modelling, provides centimetre (static) or decimetre (kinematic) level of accuracy for any worldwide user with a dual-frequency receiver (iono-free combination).



<u>The main disadvantage of PPP</u> is that the solutions <u>take longer to</u> <u>converge</u> than the RTK or NRTK differential solutions.

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Ionospheric delay

The ionosphere extends from about 60 km over the Earth surface until more than 2000 km, with a sharp electron density maximum at around 350 km. The ionospheric refraction depends, among other things, of the location, local time and solar cycle (11 years).

• First order (~99.9%) ionospheric delay δ_{ion} depends δ_{ion} on the inverse of squared frequency:

where I is the number of electrons per area unit along ray path (STEC: Slant Total Electron Content).

 Two-frequency receivers can remove this error source (up to 99.9%) using ionosphere-free combination of pseudoranges (PC) or carriers (LC).
 LC = (→ ionosphere-free combination)



• Single-frequency users can remove about a 50% of the ionospheric delay using the Klobuchar model, whose parameters are broadcast in the GPS navigation message.

Backup



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NTRIP > EUREF & IGS products > Orbits

Real-time Satellite Orbit and Clock Corrections to Broadcast Ephemeris from IGS and EUREF Resources

EUREF's <u>Real-time Analysis</u> project and the IGS <u>Real-time Pilot Project</u> provide access to precise GNSS satellite orbits and clocks via NTRIP for test and evaluation.



Precise orbits and clocks can be derived from corrections to Broadcast Ephemeris.

RTCM's '**State Space Representation**' (SSR) Working Group has developed appropriate v3 messages to disseminate such Corrections in real-time. **GE/UPC** research group of Astronomy and Geomatics CH, Ш a H arcelon m

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- PPP provides absolute worldwide positioning for a single receiver, from a reduced reference stations network (some tens for the whole planet).
- The "state-space" modelling used in PPP, where the different error components (orbits, clocks...) are treated separately, is more close to the physical error sources.
- It also allows to reduce the message bandwidth for transmission. Different time update rates can be used for different state parameters.

Cons:

- The main disadvantage of PPP is the **large converge time**. Decimetre level navigation can require from tens of minutes to more than one hour, depending on the satellite geometry.
- Also it is limited in accuracy, because in the conventional PPP, carrier ambiguities are estimated as real numbers (floated), i.e. are not fixed as integer values as in RTK.

Comment: The ionosphere-free ambiguity parameter estimated in the conventional PPP is a combination of integer ambiguities and the satellite and receiver carrier hardware biases. Then the integer property is lost.

Note: These biases are canceled in RTK when forming Double-Differences of measurements between pairs of satellites and receivers.

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PPP and floating ambiguities

 The main disadvantage of PPP is the large converge time. Decimetre level navigation can require from tens of minutes to more than one hour, depending on the satellite geometry.



For an observation span relatively long, e.g. one hour, the floated ambiguities (in PPP) would typically be very close to integers, and the change in the position solution from the float to the fixed solution should not be large.

As the observation span becomes smaller, ambiguity fixing (e.g. RTK) play a more important role. But very short observation spans implies the risk of wrong ambiguity fixing, which can degrade the position solution significantly.

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***** Measured user **Pseudoranges Differential Message Broadcast** PRC. RRC User

Errors are similar for users separated tens, even hundred of km, and are removed/mitigated in differential mode, improving positioning.



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Errors are similar for users separated tens, even hundred of km, and are removed/mitigated in differential mode, improving positioning.

Uses single receiver (undifferenced) 1 freq. measur.+<u>broad</u>. orbits /clocks

- Metre level measurements modelling
- Code measurements (or carrier smoothed code).

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• No ambiguity resolution is needed.

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Few metres.

Uses single receiver (undifferenced) 1-freq measurements+ <u>computed</u> <u>differential corrections</u> (from a reference station with know coordinates) • Signal errors are removed from these differential corrections

- (degradation of accuracy with baseline).
- Carrier smoothed code

Metre level Regional Area (~100 km) Single epoch





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Uses single receiver (undifferenced) 1 freq. measur.+broad. orbits /clocks

Code based

positioning

Standard Point

Positioning (SPP)

(x,y,z)

User

- Metre level measurements modelling
- Code measurements *(or carrier* smoothed code).

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• No ambiguity resolution is needed.

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Few metres.

World wide.

Single epoch.



- Signal errors are removed from these DD. (baseline limitation due to ionosphere dif. error).
- Carrier ambiguities are "fixed" (as integer numbers in DD)

Few centimetres. Local Area (few km). Few seconds.

2freq measur+ precise orbits/clocks Accurate measurement modelling

- is need (up to the cm level).
- Carrier ambiguities are "floated" (i.e. estimated as real values) Note: in PPP the integer property is lost with undifferenced carriers

cm – dm level. World wide. Best part of one hour.



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GNSS Data Processing, Vol. 1: Fundamentals and Algorithms. **GNSS** Data Processing, Vol. 2: Laboratory exercises.

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