



#### Mechanically Engineered Grappling Arm to Capture Litter and Atmospheric Waste

# Critical Design Review

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# Project Purpose & Objectives

Project Purpose & Objectives	Proposed Design	• CPE Overview	Design Requirements	Project Risks	Verification and Validation	Project Planning	
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# Project Motivation & Statement

**MEGACLAW** is a proof of concept for mitigating debris by capturing then deorbiting debris or performing maintenance on broken spacecraft.

Heritage: CASCADE, KESSLER



**MEGACLAW** shall use a robotic arm equipped with an end effector (EE) to capture a flat plate grapple point (GP) spinning on a motor at a constant rate, which simulates a solar panel on a 6U CubeSat rotating about a single axis of rotation.



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computations





#### Updated CONOPS



1. Intel D435 searches for AR tag on solar panel and sends data to CPU

2. Algorithm identifies state of end effector and solar panel



#### Updated CONOPS



1. Intel D435 searches for AR tag on solar panel and sends data to CPU

2. Algorithm identifies state of end effector and solar panel

3. Algorithm solves inverse kinematics for joint velocities



















# Proposed Design

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#### **Control Block Diagrams**









# Hardware Description – End Effector







- Ball Joint Grippers
- Allows 10° error with gripping position
- AC4598 Slip Ring
- End Effector needs to be able to rotate indefinitely
- Pololu 0.6" Force Sensitive Resistor
- Confirms a successful grapple





#### Hardware Description - Test Bed



- Improving KESSLER test bed
- Added Crossbars to counteract torque from arm







# Hardware Description: Solar Panel

- 11.8in x 7.9in x 0.5in
- 2 fiducial markers on edges for position determination
- 3 color center for rotation







# Primary Vision System Block Diagram







#### Vision System: Intel RealSense D435 & Pixy2



3.54" x 0.98" x 0.98"



#### **Intel RealSense D435**

#### **Provides: Color video**

- (1920x1080) at 30fps
- 69.4° x 42.5°

#### **3D metric position**

- <1% error
- 85.2° x 58°

#### Pixy2

**Provides: Pixel position and angle** of solar panel

- 60° x 40°
- 10 grams





#### Primary Vision System: AR Tags

Fiducial markers proposed at PDR: Colored Spheres

#### Drawbacks:

- Prohibitively **slow** (~0.5 Hz)
- Sensitive to variable lighting
- Number of distinct colors limits available number of markers (~6)



New design solution: AR tags

#### Advantages:

- **Fast** (~20 Hz)
- **Reliable** in variable lighting and orientation
- Up to 250 unique IDs
- Four corners give orientation of tag







#### Hardware Description – End Effector Tags







#### Secondary Vision System: Colored Markers

- **Pixy2** uses color signatures to track objects
- **Pixy2** has a FOV of 40° x 60°, and can track up to 7 color signatures

- Solar Panel is blue, with 3 colored markers placed in the center
- Two or more color signatures side by side are used to determine the angle of the signatures





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# CPE Overview





#### Project Elements









#### **Critical Project Elements**



CPE	Justification
<u>Sensors/Controls - Accuracies</u>	Error tolerance is very small, multiple components contribute
<u>Software - Speed</u>	Image processing and 3D modeling are time- intensive processes; minimum GP angular velocity sampling rate
<u>Actuation of Robotic Arm</u> <u>and Ground Support</u> <u>Equipment</u>	Any damage to components in the project can cause week-long delays







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#### Design Requirements: Stage 1

<u>Stage 1:</u> Coarse Alignment





8.136 cm

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Stage	X	Y	Z	Theta	Derived From
1: Coarse Alignment	<u>+</u> 18.2 [cm]	<u>+</u> 18.2 [cm]	<u>+</u> 5.1 [cm]	N/A	Pixy2 FOV {60°,40°}
2: Fine Adjustment	<u>+</u> 1.5 [cm]	<u>+</u> 1.5 [cm]	<u>+</u> 5.1 [cm]	N/A	CASCADE Heritage
3: Rotation Matching	<u>+</u> 1.5 [cm]	<u>+</u> 1.5 [cm]	<u>+</u> 5.1 [cm]	<u>+</u> 10°	Ball Joint Limitations
4: Grapple	<u>+</u> 1.5 [cm]	<u>+</u> 1.5 [cm]	<u>+</u> 2.5 [cm]	<u>+</u> 10°	Grip Depth


## Design Requirements: Stage 2







## Design Requirements: Stage 3







## Design Requirements: Stage 4







Satisfying Design Requirements: End Effector State Accuracy







### Satisfying Design Requirements – End Effector State Accuracy

**DR 2.4** 

Control algorithm shall command EE within convergence tolerance of 1.45 cm

- Created and solved inverse kinematics (IK) using exact SolidWorks model of arm
- Simulated error from actuators between IK and forward kinematics, then error of sensor measurement
- Set convergence tolerance of arm to 1.45 [cm] in z-position (can set for any of the states)
- Satisfied tolerance, <1.45 [cm] (and therefore the design requirement), every time

#### **Requirement Satisfied**







**DR 2.4** 

## Visual Processing – Accuracy of Position Determination

Sensors shall measure position of EE and GP within combined error of 1.45 cm



Must be accurate enough for end effector to grab grapple point.

#### Results

• Position error between known position and primary sensor  $\approx 2 - 5 \text{ mm}$ 

#### **Requirement Satisfied**

• Position error between two known positions  $\approx 4 - 8 \text{ mm}$ 







## Visual Processing – Accuracy of Orientation Determination

**DR 2.5** 

The spin axis offset during grapple must be no more than 10°

AR tag set as close as possible to 50° away from Intel D435

- Mean measurement: 52.19°
- σ = 0.21°
- Some error likely due to setup

Mean error: <mark>2.19°</mark> Requirement Satisfied







## Visual Processing – Visibility



Visibility of AR tag's at variant conditions:

- Distances: 0.4 m, 0.5 m, 0.6 m, 0.7 m
- Angles: 15°, 45°, 60°, 75°

66% in view at 0.6m , 60°

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## Visual Processing – Visual Demo







### Secondary Vision System – Pixy2 Angle Determination

DR 3.4	GP shall rotate at a rate of ω <sub>gp</sub> = 0.578 rad/s (or ~33 °/s)
DR 2.5.1	The GP spin rate determined by the secondary sensor shall have an error <u>+</u> 0.33 deg/s (1% error)

#### Why?

From the time the wrist is spun up to final grapple, the offset angle can be no more than 10°

#### **Results**:

Testing at 200 deg/s provided an error of 0.368%

#### <u>Requirement Satisfied</u>









## Spin Axis Alignment

- Intel D435 will scan the fiducial markers and create point cloud.
- **Find centroid** and normal vector out of centroid.
- Move arm to align with estimated spin axis (normal vector).
- Switch over to Pixy2 for fine alignment and spin rate determination.





## Spin Axis Alignment

MATLAB simulation incorporating error in measurements.



#### Path of AR tags on solar panel

DR 2.5 The spin axis offset during grapple must be no more than 10°

#### Why?

The ball joint grippers only allow for an addition **10° of movement** 

- Measured X,Y,Z position from AR tags and Intel
- Black circle is true path of the AR tags on the GP





### Spin Axis Alignment MATLAB simulation incorporating error in measurements.



Simulation of Grapple Point Axis of Rotation Estimate



DR 2.5 The spin axis offset during grapple must be no more than 10°

<u>Results:</u> Simulation provided a **mean spin axis offset** 0.68° from actual

**Requirement Satisfied** 

Mean calculated from 2000 simulations each run over a 30s interval





## Project Risks

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Proposed Design

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Design Requirements

**Project Risks** 

Verification and Validation Project Planning



## $Risks-\textbf{Before}\ Mitigation$

- 1. Bad gains
- 2. Wires become tangled during actuation of arm
- 3. Coordinate frame transformation accuracy
- 4. Actuators overheating
- 5. Camera not identifying AR tags in view
- 6. Arm is commanded into a damaging configuration

	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Significant	Severe
Very Likely				1	2
Likely			3		
Possible			4	5	
Unlikely					6
Very Unlikely					





## $Risks-Mitigation\ Methods$



Risks	<b>Mitigation Method</b>
1. Bad gains	Spend time tuning gains, trial and error (iteration)
2. Wires become tangled during actuation of arm	Slip ring implementation
3. Coordinate frame transformation accuracy	Utilization of ROS for transformation and VICON for measurement
4. Actuators overheating	255s completion time requirement, vertical arm orientation, shortened arm
5. Camera not identifying AR tags in view	Two camera system
6. Arm is commanded into a damaging configuration	Emergency power cut option and set limitations in software



## Risks – After Mitigation

- 1. Bad gains
- 2. Wires become tangled during actuation of arm
- 3. Coordinate frame transformation accuracy
- 4. Actuators overheating
- 5. Camera not identifying AR tags in view
- 6. Arm is commanded into a damaging configuration

	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Significant	Severe
Very Likely				1	2
Likely			3		
Possible		5	4	5	
Unlikely		2	4,3		6
Very Unlikely			1	6	







# Verification & Validation

Project Purpose & Objectives	Proposed Design	CPE Overview	Design Requirements	Project Risks	Verification & Validation	Project Planning
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## Verification & Validation – Controls

#### **<u>Requirement:</u>**

• 2.4.4 The position of EE shall satisfy a control tolerance of 1.5 cm

#### **Solution:**

• Use an external reference to confirm that when the control algorithm indicates convergence, it is within this requirement

#### **Verification & Validation Test:**

- Utilize CU RECUV's VICON camera system with 8 reflective spheres to track the end effector's position within ~ 1 [mm]
- Mimic CASCADE test setup (vertical)







## Verification & Validation – Visual Accuracy

#### Requirement:

- 2.4.2 The position of EE shall be determined within 1.45 cm
- 2.4.3 The position of GP shall be determined within 1.45 cm

#### Solution:

- 2 camera system
- Calibration of D435 and Pixy2 cameras for accuracy

#### **Verification & Validation Test:**

• The VICON will be used to **determine the actual position of a stationary arm** to within 1 mm, and this measurement will be compared against the measurement of the D435 primary camera







## Visual Processing – Accuracy Confirmation of Spin Rate



The solar panel will be rotated using a turntable motor that will be commanded to 33 deg/s. The **actuator will return position and time data**, which will be used to **calculate the true spin rate**. This truth data will be compared to the Pixy2's calculated spin rate.

Actuator truth spin rate, accurate within 0.1°



**V.S.** 



Pixy2 tested at 3" from GP



## Visual Processing – Coordinate transfer

#### **Requirement:**

 2.4.5 Coordinate frames shall be defined in software with a maximum error of ±0.1 cm and ±0.5° from their actual locations

#### Solution:

• Measure coordinate frame locations with ±0.1 cm and ±0.5° accuracy

#### Verification & Validation Test:

- Utilize CU RECUV's VICON camera system with reflective spheres located on the coordinate frames of interest
- This provides measurement accuracy of ~0.1cm
- Angular accuracy dependent on sphere locations,  $\pm 0.5^{\circ}$  can be achieved



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## Project Planning

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## Work Breakdown Structure







### Work Plan (Gantt Chart)







## Cost Plan

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Project risk will be bought down by purchasing:

- An extra Intel D435 (\$179)
- An extra Pixy2 (\$60)
- 2 extra Pololu force sensors (\$12)
- Printing material for 2 extra end effector gimbals





## Test Plan



Phase	Location (Facility)	Special Amenities	(Reservation) Feasibility
Electronic and Mechanical Component Testing (1/14 – 1/21)	ASEN Senior Projects Room	Storage, Floor and Table Space (for test bed and components, respectively)	Through ASEN 4018/28
Subsystem Testing $(1/14 - 3/4)$	ASEN Senior Projects Room	(as above)	(as above)
	VISIONS Lab (RECUV)	VICON motion capture system	CASCADE, KESSLER
System Testing (3/5 - 4/22)	(as above)	(as above)	(as above)





## Questions?







## Back-Up Slides







# Project Purpose & Objectives

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## Project Statement



MEGACLAW shall use a robotic arm equipped with an end effector to capture a grapple point, a flat plate spinning on a motor at a constant rate, which simulates a solar panel on a 6U CubeSat rotating about a single axis of rotation.









## Proposed Design

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## Primary Vision System Block Diagram





### Primary Vision System: Binary AR tags

Advantages:

- Fast (20-30 Hz) even with many tags
- Reliable recognition at:
  - High viewing angles
  - Wide variety of lighting conditions
- Unique IDs provided by binary codification (white pattern)
- Four corners allows for orientation estimation

Implementation used: AprilTags

• Available through OpenCV/ArUco







### Primary Vision System: AR tag Algorithm

#### Adaptive Thresholding

• Converts input image to blackand-white

#### **Boundary Segmentation**

• Identifies contours of AR tags

#### **Perspective Removal**

• Detected tag is reshaped into a square

#### Bit Extraction

• Marker is divided into grid






#### Primary Vision System: Position/Orientation

#### **Orientation** provided by OpenCV library:

• Found by measuring perspective distortion of each detected tag

#### **Cartesian position:**

- Applying pixel position of tag to depth image to find linear distance
- Using Intel-provided functionality (along with calibration parameters) to reconstruct Cartesian position of tag









#### Primary Vision System: State Determination

#### **Target state determination:**

• Prior to grapple, tags on target will be visible for a full revolution

#### **End effector state determination:**

- System will have foreknowledge of geometric relationships between *n* visible tags and the end effector center and rotation axis
- By constructing *n* transformation matrices, *n* estimates of the end effector's state can be obtained
- The best estimate of the true state will be the average of the *n* states





# Visual Processing Test Setup (Mock-Up)



- Two AR tags on each top end of the GP
  - Used by intel to determine spin axis
- Three colored markers centered on top of GP
  - Used by PIXY 2 to determine spine rate and fine tune axis alignment
- Additional AR tags will be placed on the tip of the claw for Intel to ensure a 90 degree alignment with the claw for successful grapple





#### Spin Axis Alignment – Vision Area





\_\_\_ 0.5in



Results of simulating the grapple point estimation accuracy 2000 times with a sample time of 30 seconds





Results of simulating the grapple point estimation accuracy 2000 times with a sample time of 60 seconds







# Inside the Control Block

- Inside the control block, apply proportional control to the error and add to desire position to "trick" actuator PID control
- Assume small angle adjustments (by limiting distance between commanded points) to simplify quaternion control to linear:
- $[q1, q2, q3, q4]' = [\phi/2, \theta/2, \psi/2, 1]'$







#### Other Processes

- Inverse Kinematics: Takes commanded end effector state [x , y , z , q1 , q2 , q3 , q4] and returns joint angles. Quaternion eliminates singularities
- Built-In Actuator PID Control: Takes a set of joint angles and sends to actuators. Actuators respond according to their supplied PID control
- Intel, Pixy2: Senses the actual state of the end effector, returns to the algorithm







# CPE Overview





## Overview of CPE's and Functionality

CPE 1: State Estimation CPE 2: Controls CPE 3: Hardware











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#### Software Rate Requirement

Software - Rate	Software shall run at 0.916 Hz to support closed
	loop operation

The rate of 0.916 Hz is for the entire control loop. This means that all operations within the closed loop must be performed in 1.092 seconds.

- Some control loop processes can be achieved simultaneously.
- The control loop rate becomes a primary concern during stages 3 and 4 due to the stages having the most complicated controls.





#### Visual Processing - Speed

- Reading in position –Intel 0.067 seconds
- Reading in position Pixy 0.003 seconds
- Communication with ROS Negligible
- Calculating center point -0.015 seconds
- Visual Processing total time 0.082 seconds
- Overall time requirement 1.092 seconds









Visibility of AR tag's at variant conditions:

• Distances: 0.4 m, 0.5 m, 0.6 m, 0.7 m

• Angles: 15°, 45°, 60°, 75°



















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End Effector States 5×10<sup>-4</sup> 드 0 × ×10<sup>-7</sup> Command [<u></u> ε] 0 ≻-2 -4 Command 0.45 트 0.4 ¤ 0.35  $5 \times 10^{-7}$ Command q1 [m] -5° 0 ×10<sup>-4</sup> Command [≝] 0-25 -5--10 10×10<sup>-4</sup> Command [m] 5 Command <u></u> 동 0.9999995 -

Command

- Overall: All states oscillate about 0
- q4 about 1

 z-state converges to the points given

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#### Marker Location on GP and $\ensuremath{\mathsf{EE}}$

State of end effector shall be measured using a decoupled sensor

State of grapple point shall be measured using a decoupled sensor

- Two AR tags on each top edge of the GP
  - Used by Intel D435
- Three colored markers centered on top of  $\operatorname{GP}$ 
  - Used by Pixy2









- Spin rate of record player is 33.333 rev/min
   33.333 \* 360° / 60s = 200°/s
- Averaging 5 calculations,
  estimated spin rate = 200.736°/s

- Error = 0.736 / 200 \* 100%
- = 0.368%







# Verification & Validation

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#### Control Loop Accuracy







#### Control Loop Accuracy – VICON Test





