

The logo features a stylized globe with a radio tower emitting signals from the top and an airplane flying across the center. The word "RAMROD" is written in large, bold, orange letters across the middle of the globe. The background is a light gray world map.

**RAMROD**

# REMOTE AUTONOMOUS MAPPING OF RADIO FREQUENCY OBSTRUCTION DEVICES

Team: Jorgen Baertsch, Ian Cooke, Kennedy Harrmann, Mary Landis,  
Sarah Larson, Harrison Mast, Ethan Morgan, Selby Stout, Jake Ursetta,  
Justin Williams, Samantha Williams

Sponsor: Dennis Akos

Advisor: Jade Morton

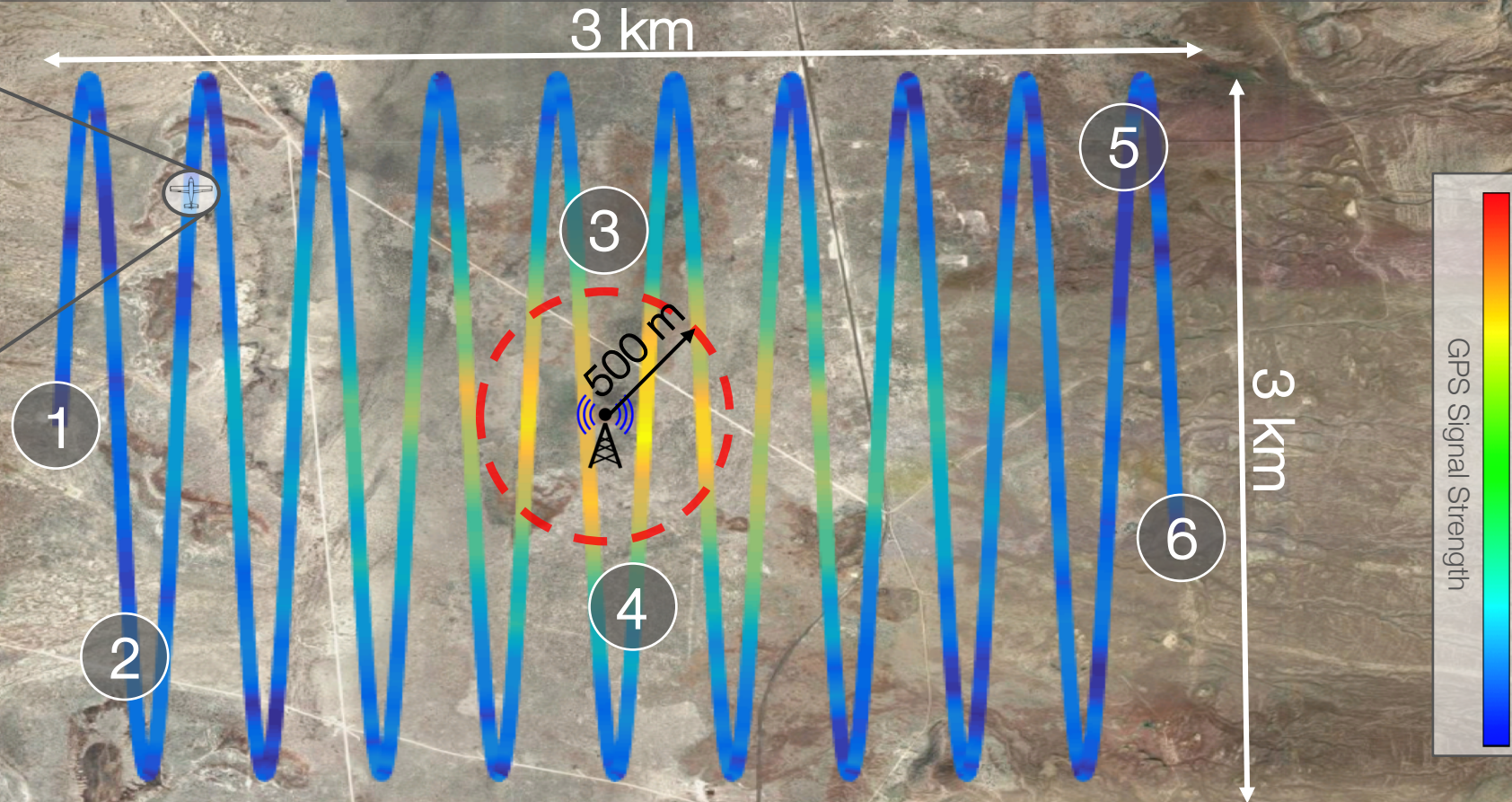
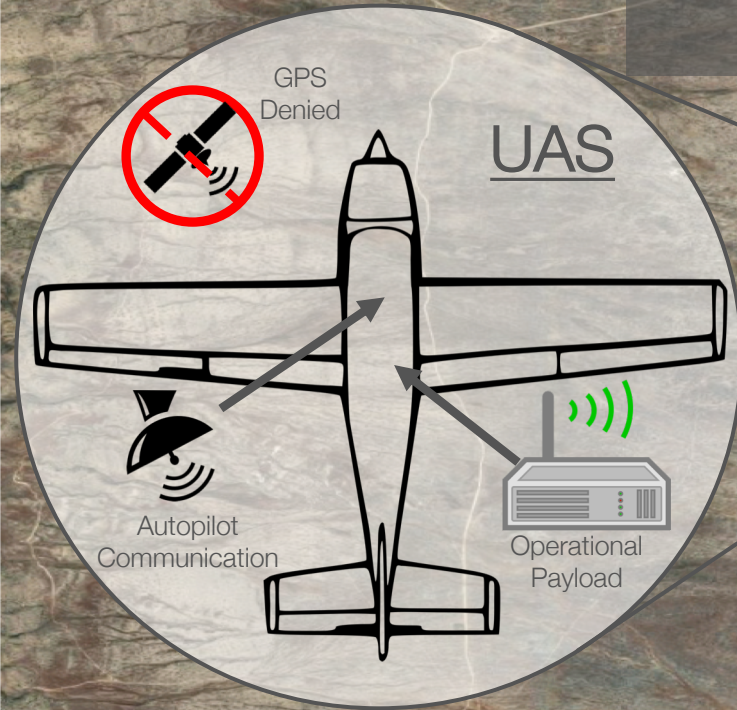


# CONOPS

Step 1:  
Launch UAS with payload

Step 3:  
Simulate GPS denied environment  
over designated area

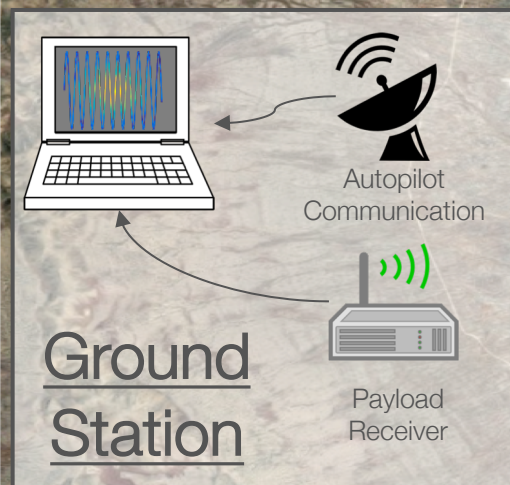
Step 5:  
Transmit signal strength and  
positioning measurements to ground



Step 2:  
Start autonomous flight on pre-planned path

Step 4:  
Collect data on signal strength

Step 6:  
Land UAS and localize signal source at ground station

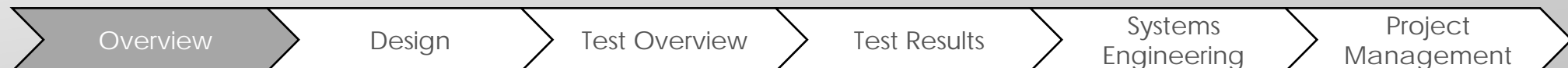






# INTEGRATIVE TESTING PROBLEMS

|          |  |  |
|----------|--|--|
| Problem  | The use of GPS jammers is illegal        | The Talon will not measure frequencies outside of the GPS band             |
| Solution | Use a WiFi signal to simulate GPS jammer | The “Disco” UAS will be used to sample WiFi power over the GPS denied area |







# PARROT DISCO UAS



- Given to team RAMROD by customer
- Already proven capable of sampling WiFi power
- Will be used to create contour plot of signal power



# Disco WiFi Sampling

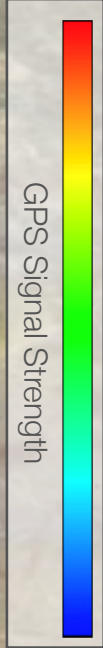
Disco


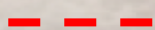


CDR



500 m





GPS Denied Area  
Signal Source

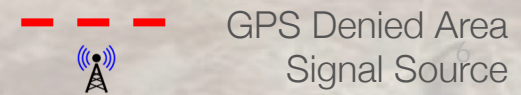
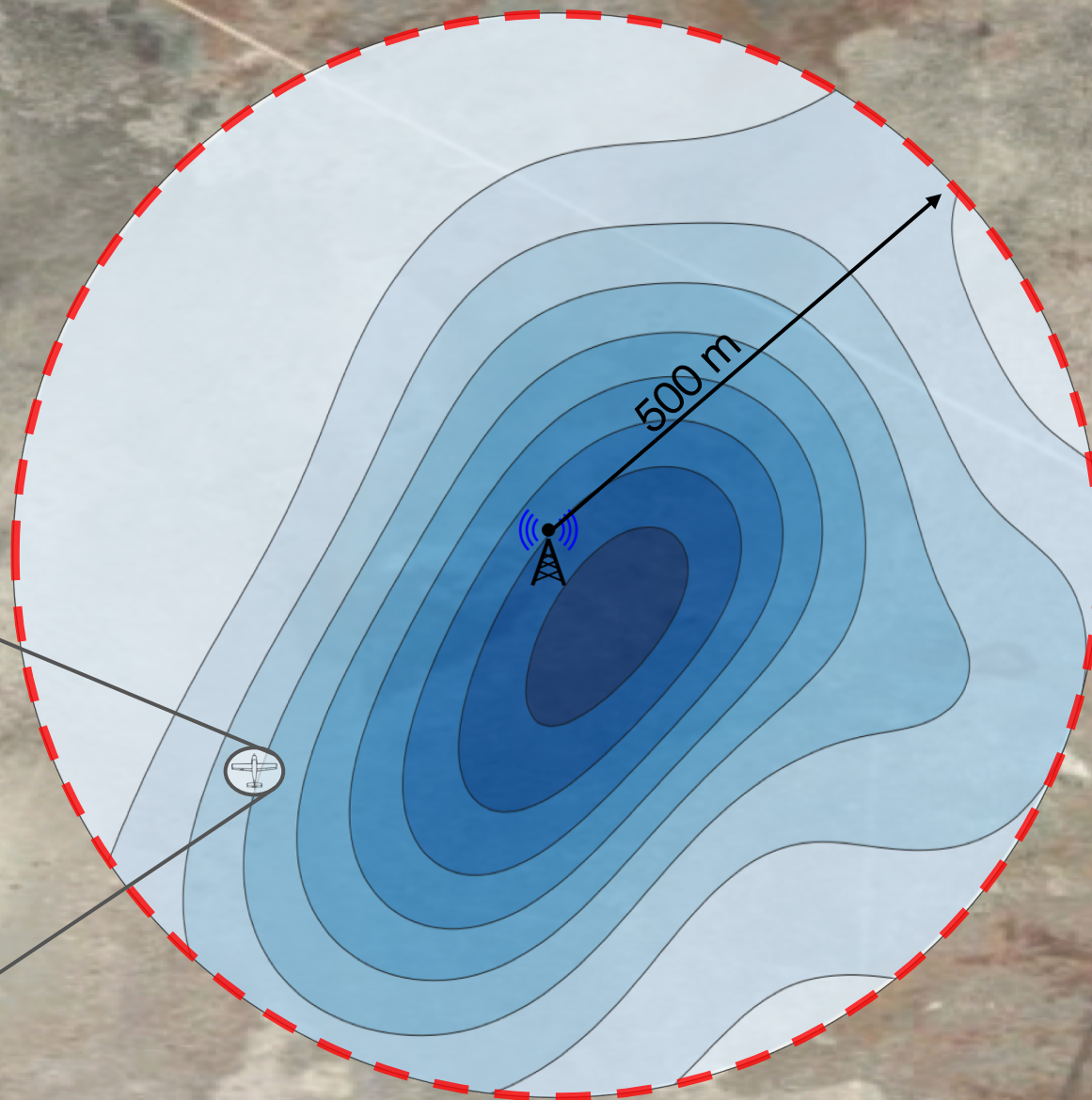


# Disco WiFi Contour Map

Disco



CDR



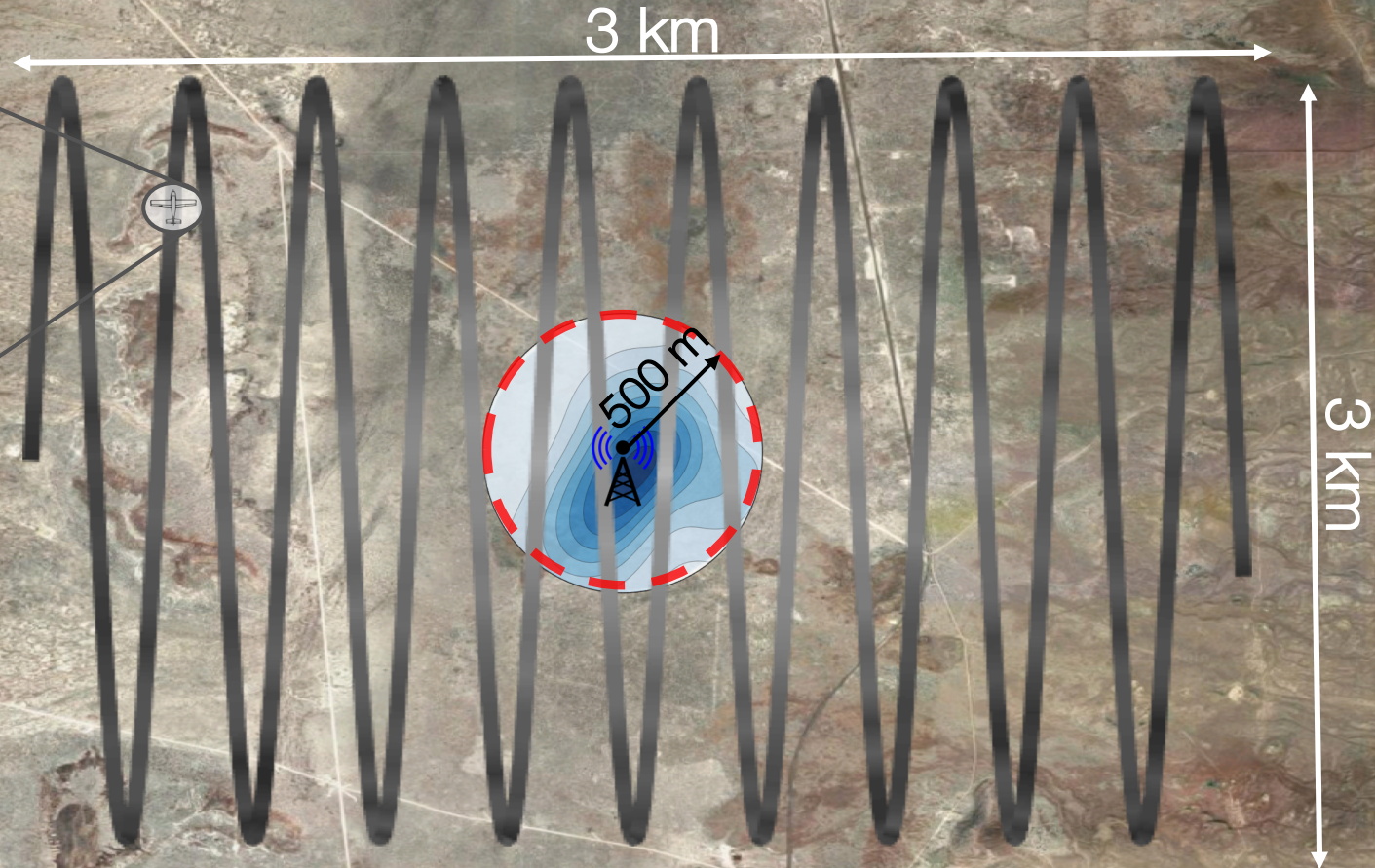
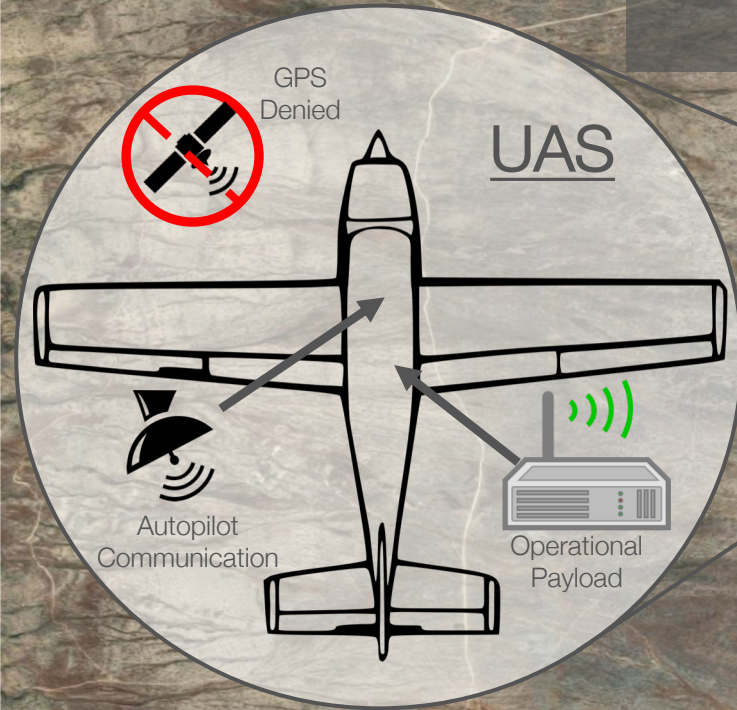


# CONOPS

Step 1:  
Launch UAS with payload

Step 3:  
Simulate GPS denied environment  
over designated area

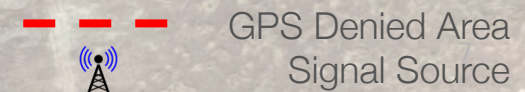
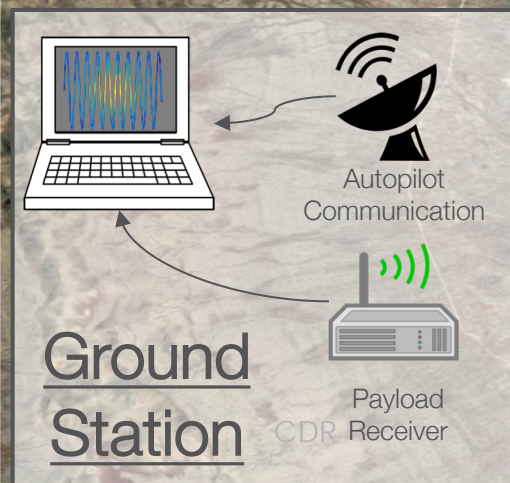
Step 5:  
Transmit signal strength and  
positioning measurements to ground



Step 2:  
Start autonomous flight on pre-planned path

Step 4:  
Collect data for actual and  
estimated location with Talon

Step 6:  
Land UAS and post process position/wifi  
signal at ground station

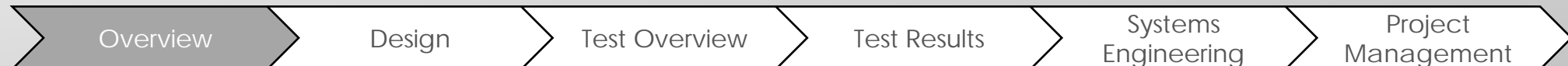






# CRITICAL PROJECT ELEMENTS

| CPE                        | Description   | Reason  |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| GPS Denied Flight Software | Maintain autonomous flight while in a simulated GPS denied environment for up to 200 seconds at a time                  | A PPD or ET will cause GPS data to be inaccurate.   |
| UAS                        | Use the Talon to fly in a simulated GPS denied environment while housing the operational payload made by team RAMROD    | A UAS capable of supporting the necessary sensors would be the best means of covering the required area.  |
| Payload                    | Self-powered sensor payload that can monitor, store and transmit RFI signal data while interfaced with the UAS platform | To measure the RF source all necessary sensors must be integrated together. By customer request the payload must be capable of taking RF measurements without UAS integration |

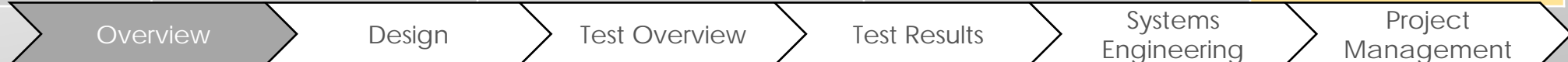






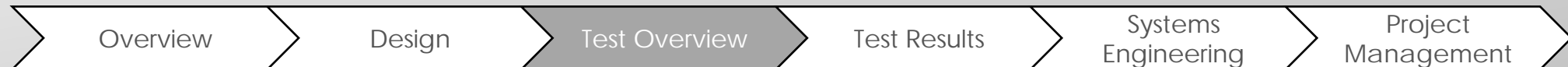
# LEVELS OF SUCCESS

|         | Operational Payload  | UAS Platform  | GPS Denied Flight Software   | RF Localization                                  |
|---------|--|---|--|--|
| Level 1 | -Collect and store power measurements for a full 60 minutes                                | -Shall use manual flight to achieve a minimum total flight time of 60 minutes while containing the full payload | -Autopilot switches seamlessly to GPS denied flight  | -Shall be able to establish an RFI power profile |
| Level 2 | -Transmit data up to 4.25 km using LTE connection.<br>-Communicate power data with PixHawk | -Shall have the ability to fly autonomously for 60 minutes with GPS active                                      | -Shall allow for maintained straight and level GPS denied flight for 1 km  | -Localize RFI source within 100 m                |
| Level 3 |  | -Shall have the ability to fly autonomously for 10 minutes with GPS denied                                      | -Shall allow for turning maneuvers in GPS denied conditions<br>-Shall keep positional error less than 30m after 2km of GPS denied flight | -Localize RFI source within 40 m                 |



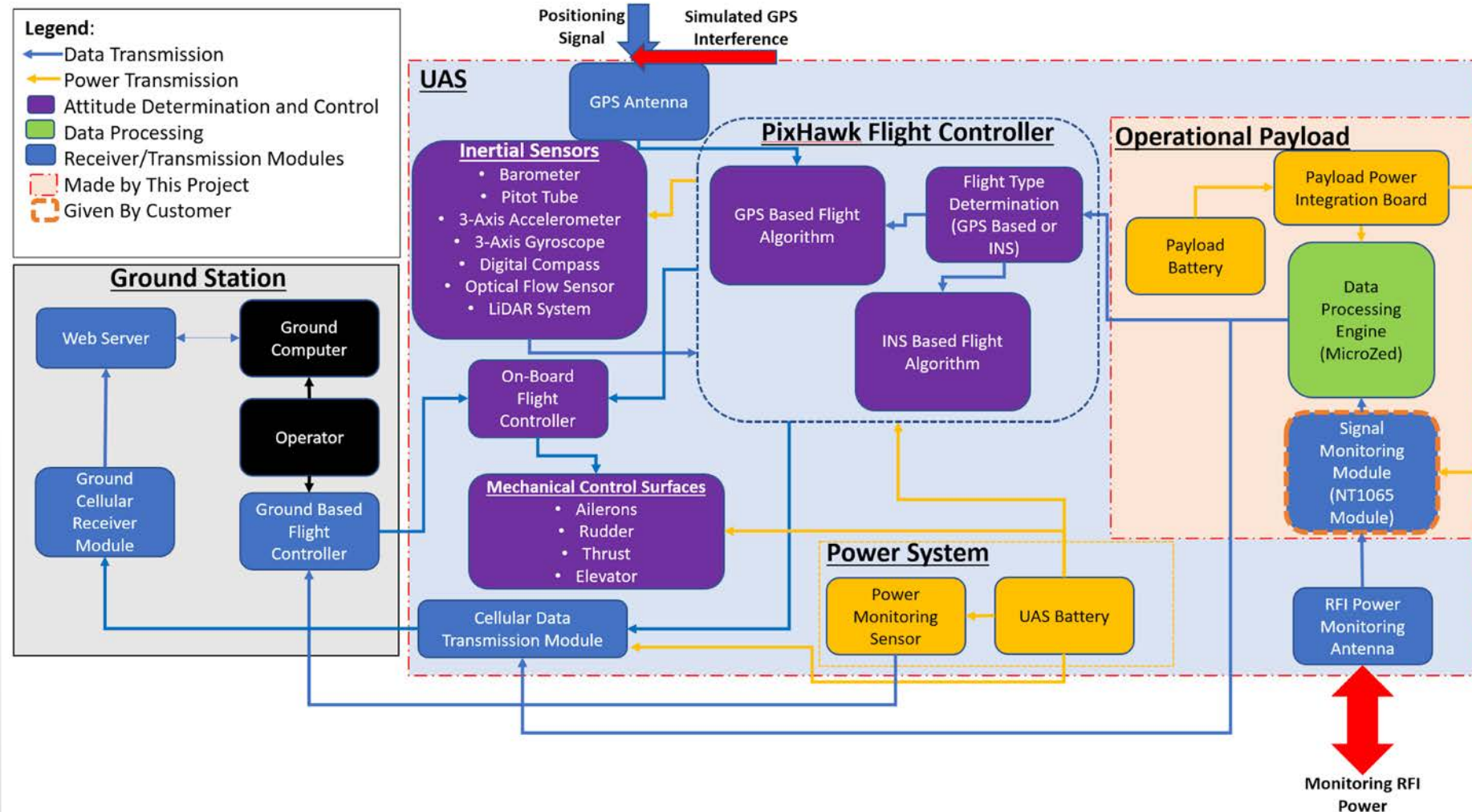


# DESIGN





# FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM





# CRITICAL FOR MISSION SUCCESS

| Critical Component        | Components Chosen | Reason Component is Mission Critical   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Flight Controller         | PixHawk 2.1       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controls all flight characteristics and manages autonomous flight</li> <li>Contains modified GPS-Denied Flight Mode</li> </ul>  |
| Inertial Measurement Unit | DMU11             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main component for minimizing positional error in GPS-Denied Flight Mode</li> </ul>   |
| Signal Filter             | NT1065            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collects raw power data on L1 and L2 bands and filters it into usable data for microprocessor</li> </ul>                        |
| Microprocessor            | MicroZed          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sends all power and position data to the ground</li> <li>Stores all power data</li> <li>Indicates flight mode switch</li> </ul> |



Flight Controller (PixHawk)



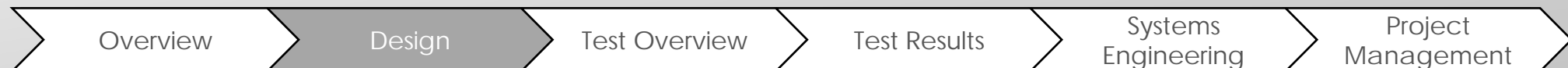
Inertial Measurement Unit (DMU11)



Signal Filter (NT1065)



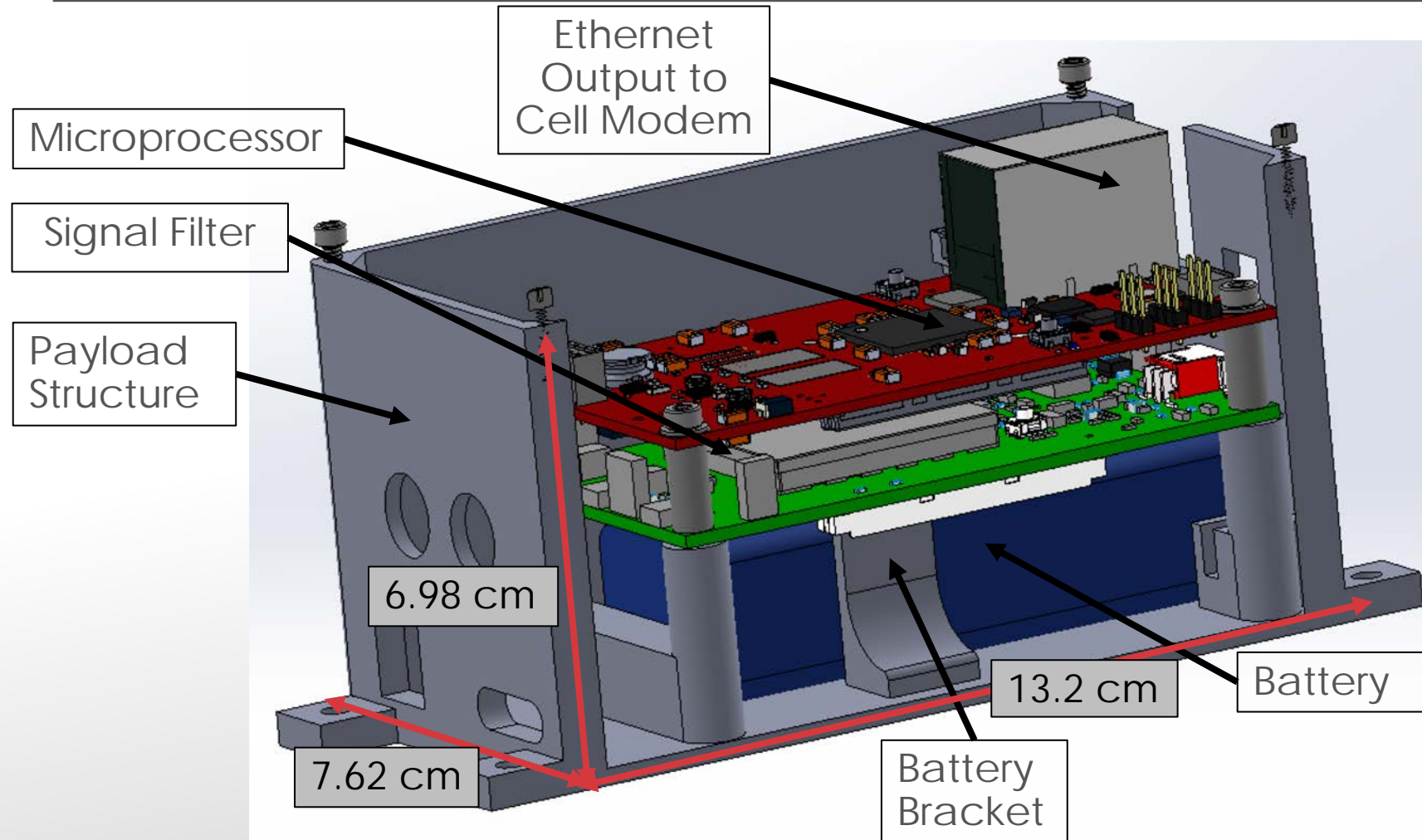
Microprocessor (MicroZed)





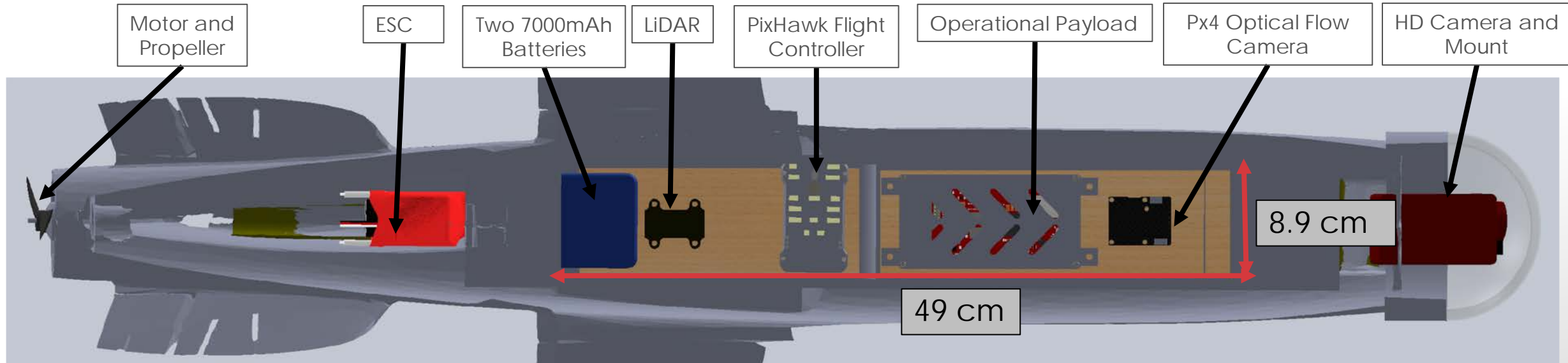


# PAYLOAD BASELINE DESIGN



| Key Parameter                      | Value                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Size (cm)                          | 7.62x13.21x6.98                |
| Mass (g)                           | 450                            |
| Avg. Data Transmission Rate (Mbps) | Upload: 7.64<br>Download: 6.67 |

# UAS BASELINE DESIGN



| Key Parameter               | Value     |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Wingspan (m)                | 1.7       |
| Body Length (m)             | 1.1       |
| Payload Bay Dimensions (cm) | 49x8.9x10 |

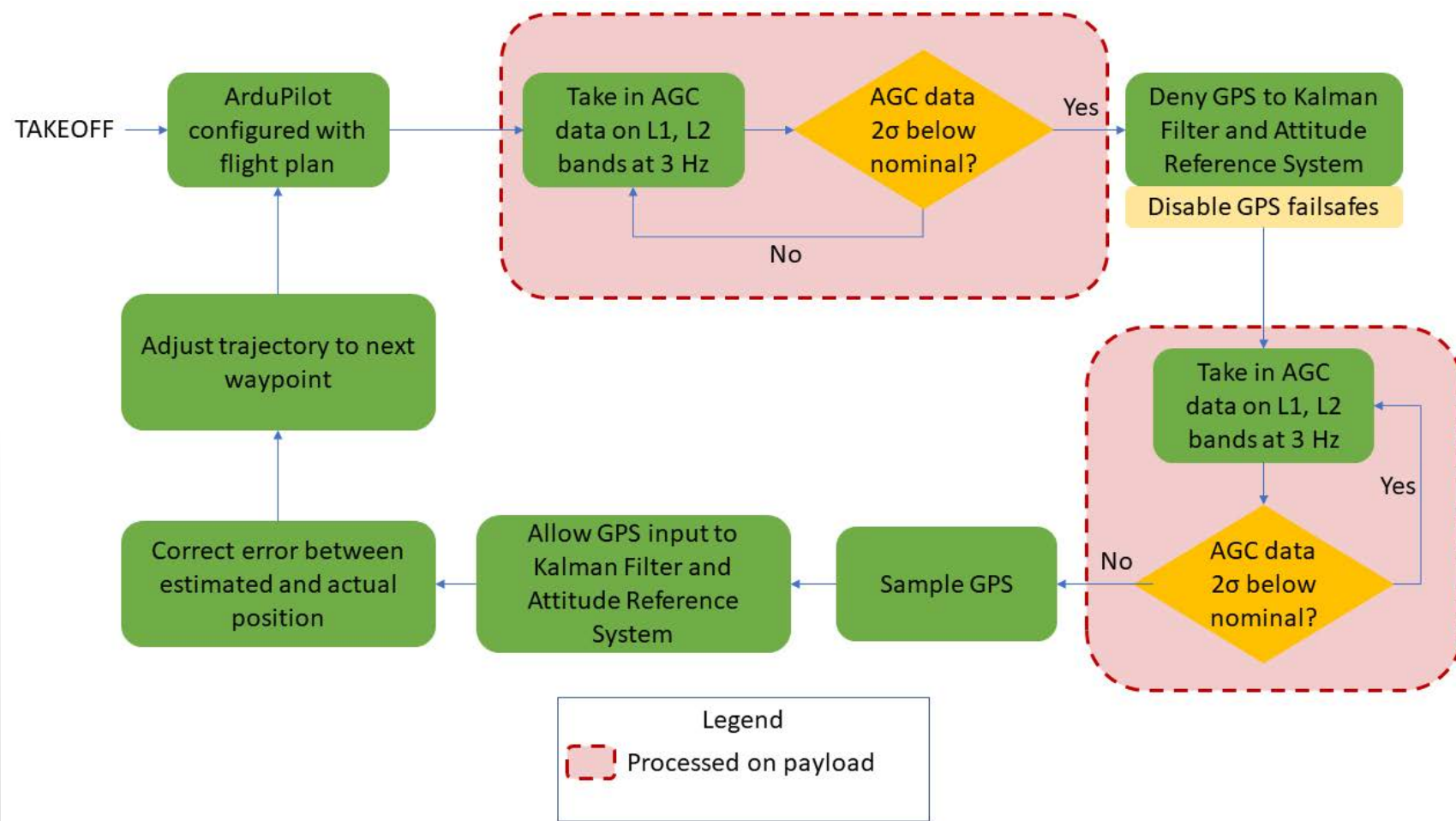
| Key Parameter             | Value                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Final CG Location         | 55 mm aft of leading edge |
| Final Mass (kg)           | 3.2                       |
| Maximum Flight Time (min) | 67                        |





# SOFTWARE BASELINE DESIGN

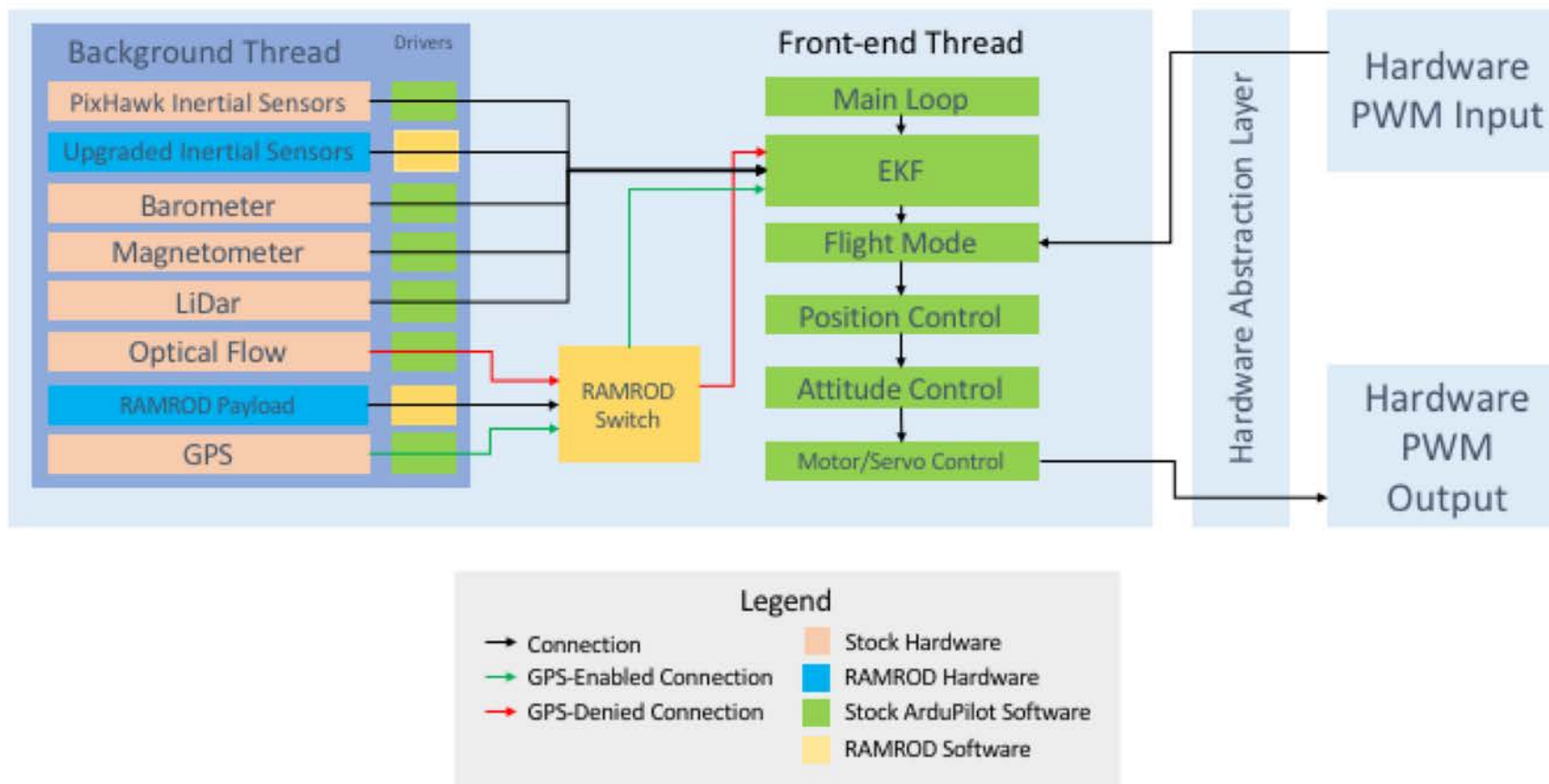
## FLIGHT MODE SWITCH





# SOFTWARE BASELINE DESIGN

## MODIFIED AUTOPILOT

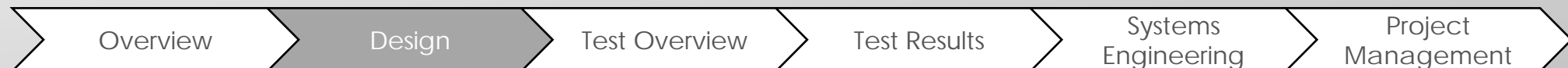






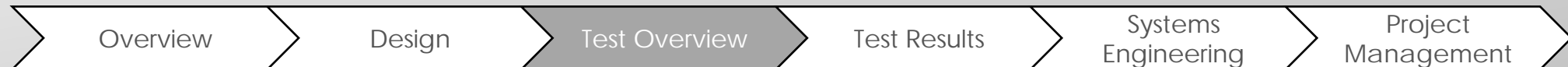
# BASELINE DESIGN CHANGES

| Design Change                                      | Reason for Change   | Impact on Design  |
|--|---|---|
| Optical flow camera and LiDAR not used for testing | Not confident in landings. Rough landing environment.   | Other sensors used for positional estimations were sufficient to minimize error therefore there was no major effect from this design change |
| Solid nose cone was used for final testing         | Original nose cone (clear plastic and foam) was destroyed on a failed take off attempt and 3-D printing a replacement was faster than ordering a new cone | Since the solid nose cone is opaque, the HD camera could no longer be used, but that does not effect mission success                        |
| Main wing spar was replaced with brass rod         | Original spar was damaged on rough landing and a replacement could not be ordered in time   | 20g increase in final mass and better structural stability of the wing.   |





# TEST OVERVIEW

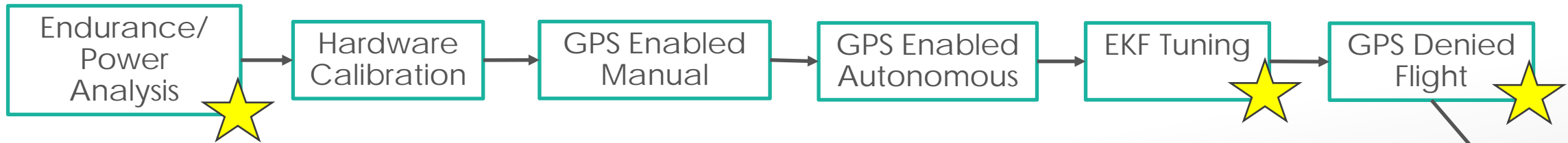






# TEST FLOW DOWN

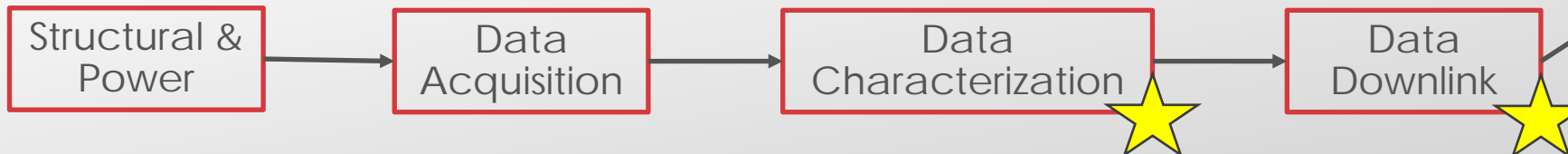
## Hardware



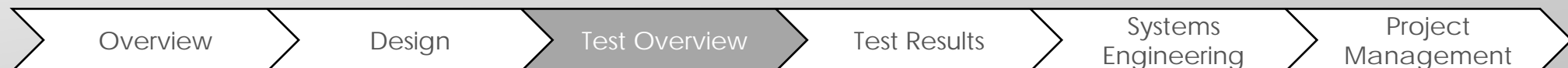
## Software



## Payload



★ Critical Test



# TESTING SETBACKS

## Flight Testing Issues

### Main Setbacks for Testing

1. Weather
2. Scheduling
3. Test Location
4. Hardware failures

| Testing Attempts | Successful Flights | Weather Delayed | Hardware Failure | Vehicle Crash | Schedule Conflict | Success Rate |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 30               | 5                  | 12              | 5                | 4             | 4                 | 17 %         |







# PAYLOAD AGC CHARACTERIZATION TESTS



## Test Descriptions

5 minute tests at 3 different locations

60 min flight test with battery pack

Simulated GPS interference test

## Purpose

Provide accurate GPS-denied threshold

Define when GPS is unreliable



## Systems Used

Payload Components

## Metric for Success

Capable of running and storing data for 60 minutes

Understand the self-generated RFI on the UAS and when AGC data is unreliable

Overview

Design

Test Overview

Test Results

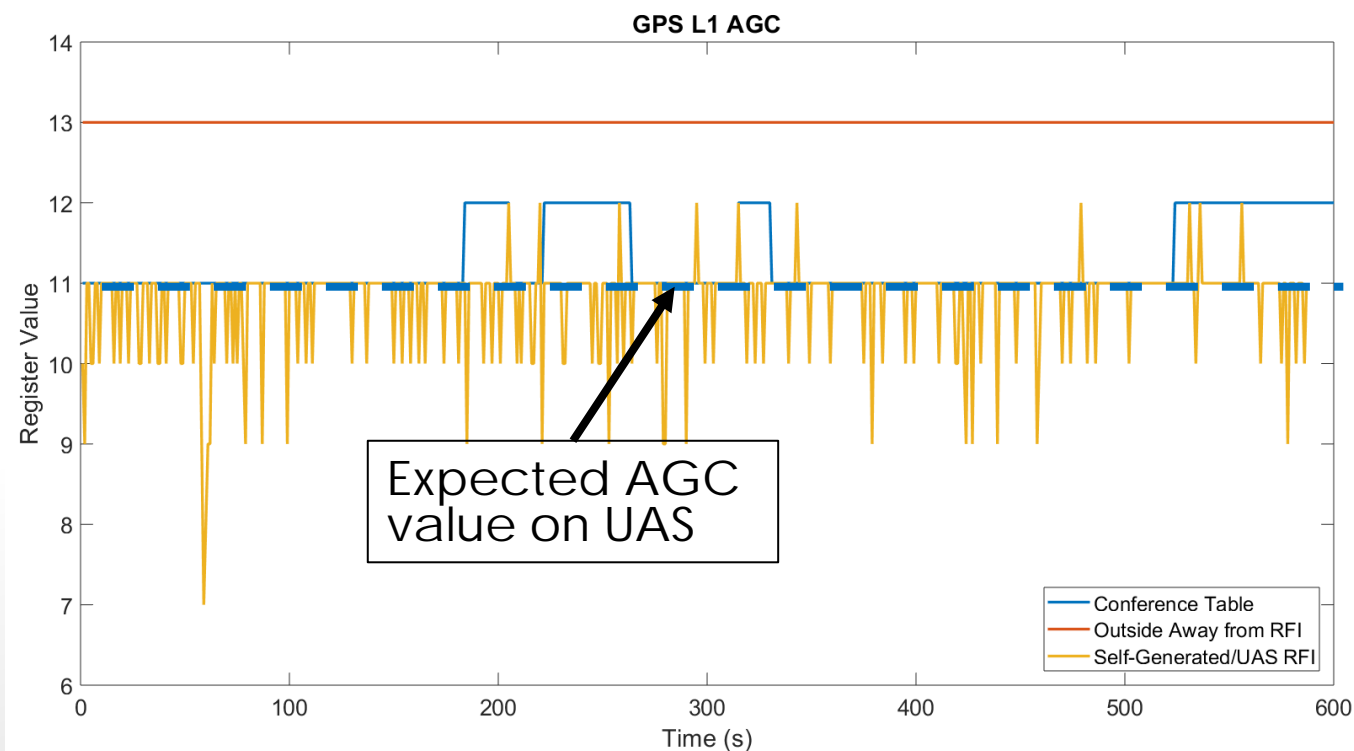
Systems  
Engineering

Project  
Management



# AGC CHARACTERIZATION TESTS

AGC data from 5-minute Tests in 3 different Locations



Average AGC value on UAS: 10-11

## Purpose

- Understand AGC data collected on UAS

## Setup

- LM Room
- CUSB
- UAS

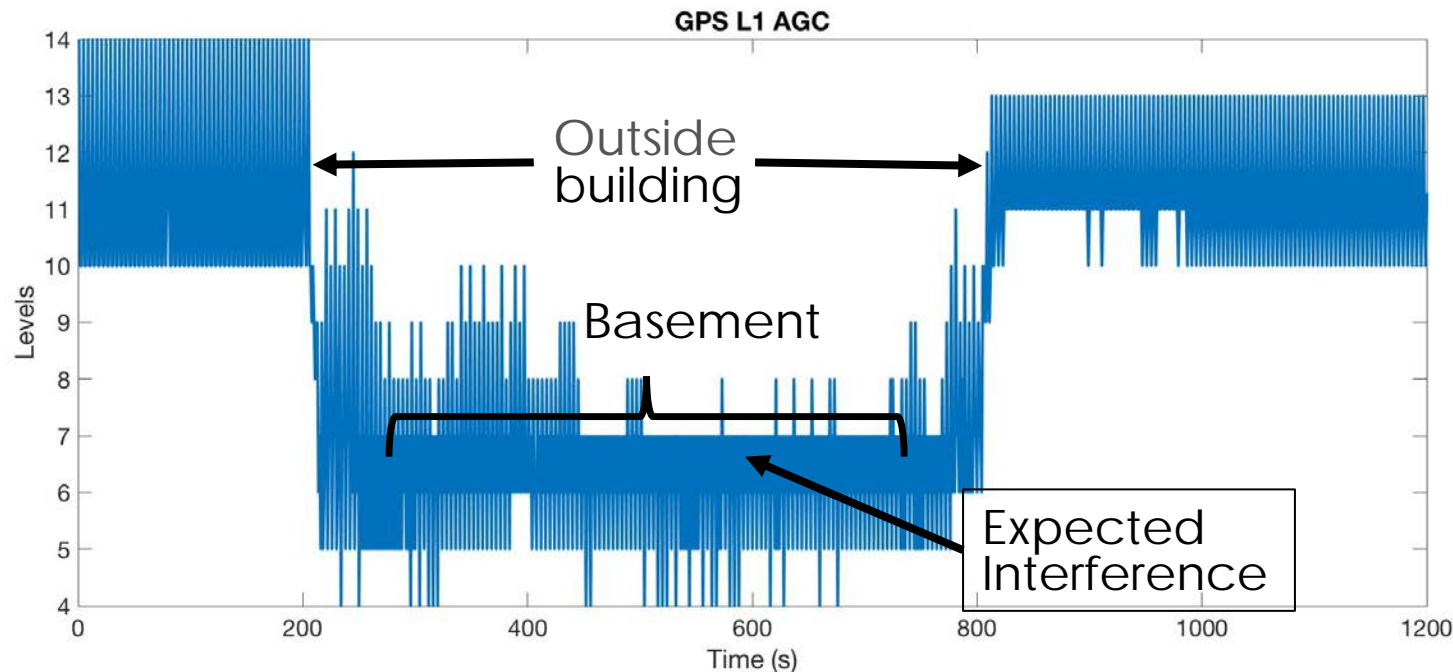
## Results

- Average AGC value on UAS:  $10.5 \pm 0.5$





# AGC CHARACTERIZATION TESTS



## Mission Success Impact

- Creation of power profile map
- Localization of an RFI source
- Reliable flight mode switching
- Satisfies All of FR/DR 12, part of FR/DR 10

## Purpose

- Identify when GPS is unreliable

## Setup

- Walked into basement of BESC, simulating unreliable GPS

## Results

- Average unreliable GPS value:  $6.5 \pm 1$
- GPS cannot be trusted when  $AGC < 8$



# POWER AND ENDURANCE TEST

## Objective:

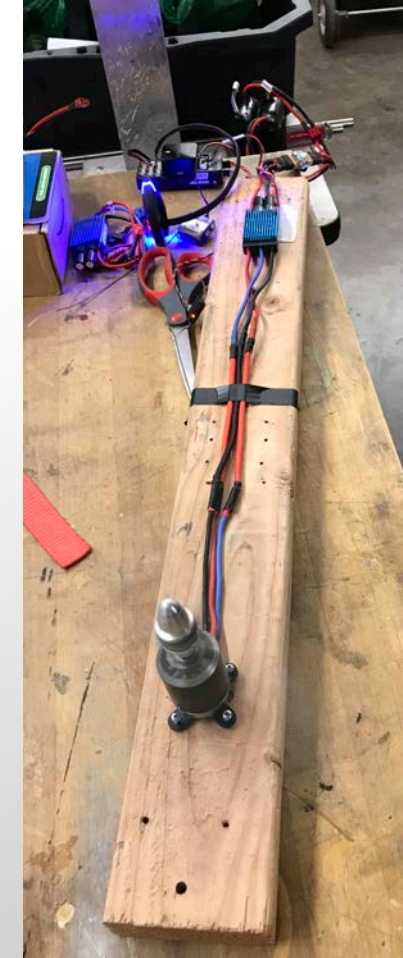
- Verify the UAS is capable of flying for 60 minutes in 30 kph wind
- Confirm UAS efficiency and validate power model

## Description

- Static thrust test draining the batteries by 85% capacity
- 35% throttle (30% used for cruise at 60 kph)

## Measurements:

- Recorded using flight controller power module
- Sent over telemetry and logged on ground station
- Voltage (V), Current (A), Discharge (mAh)
- Total Discharge Time (s)

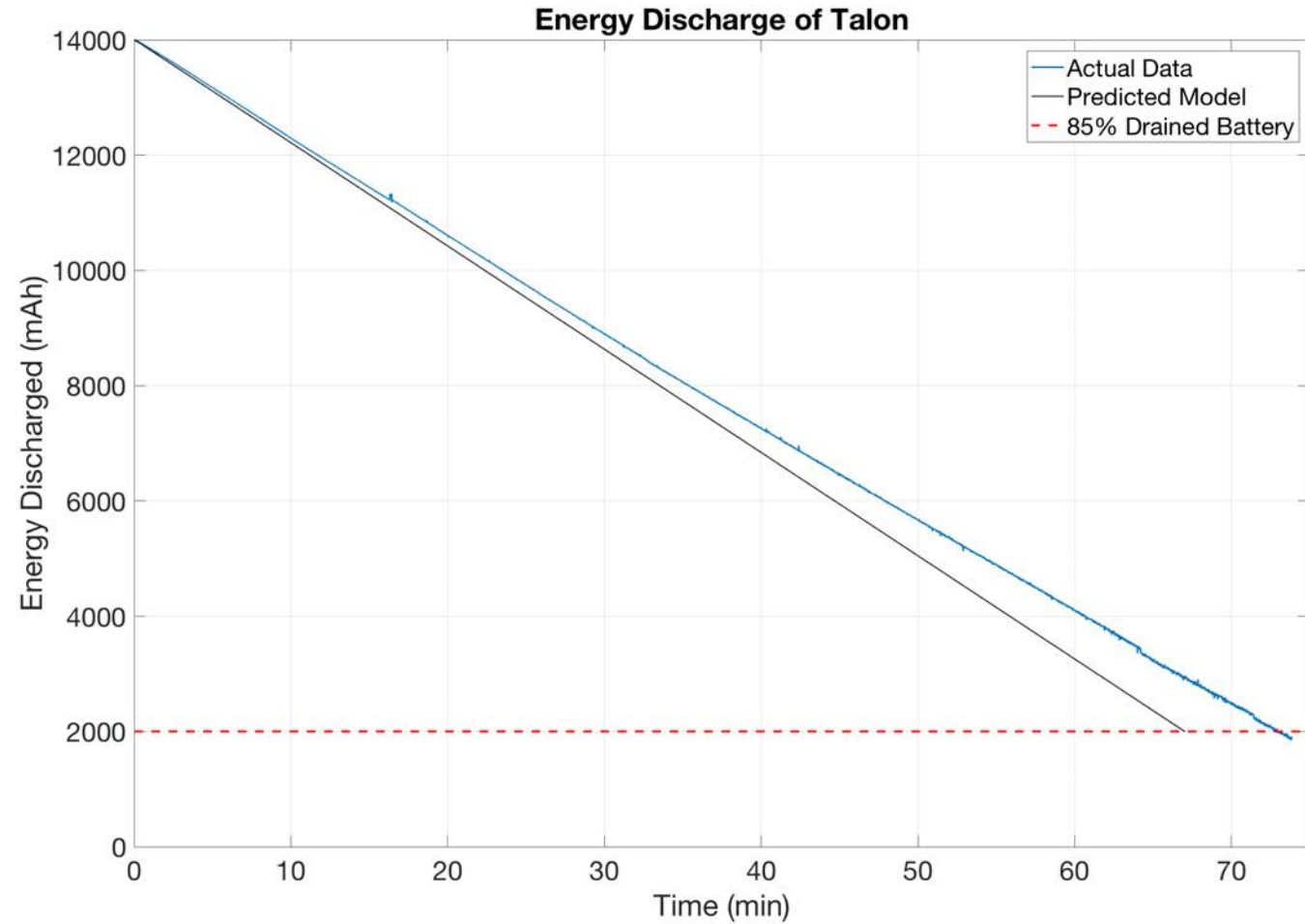






# POWER AND ENDURANCE TEST

| Expected   | Actual     |
|------------|------------|
| 67 minutes | 72 minutes |





# POWER AND ENDURANCE TEST

## Verification

- FR 1: The UAS shall sustain flight for 60 minutes
- FR 2: The UAS shall be capable of flying in 30 kph wind
- FR 4: The UAS shall be capable of flying the payload

## Confidence

- Capable of sustaining flight for the required time in required wind conditions
- Capable of carrying all payload sensors





# EKF FLIGHT TESTING AND TUNING

## Description

- Five 10-20 minute flight tests
- Initially manual control, later moving to autonomous flight plans
- Collect EKF position estimates without GPS aided filter, with GPS aided sensors

## Systems Used

- UAS with all sensors (except payload) integrated





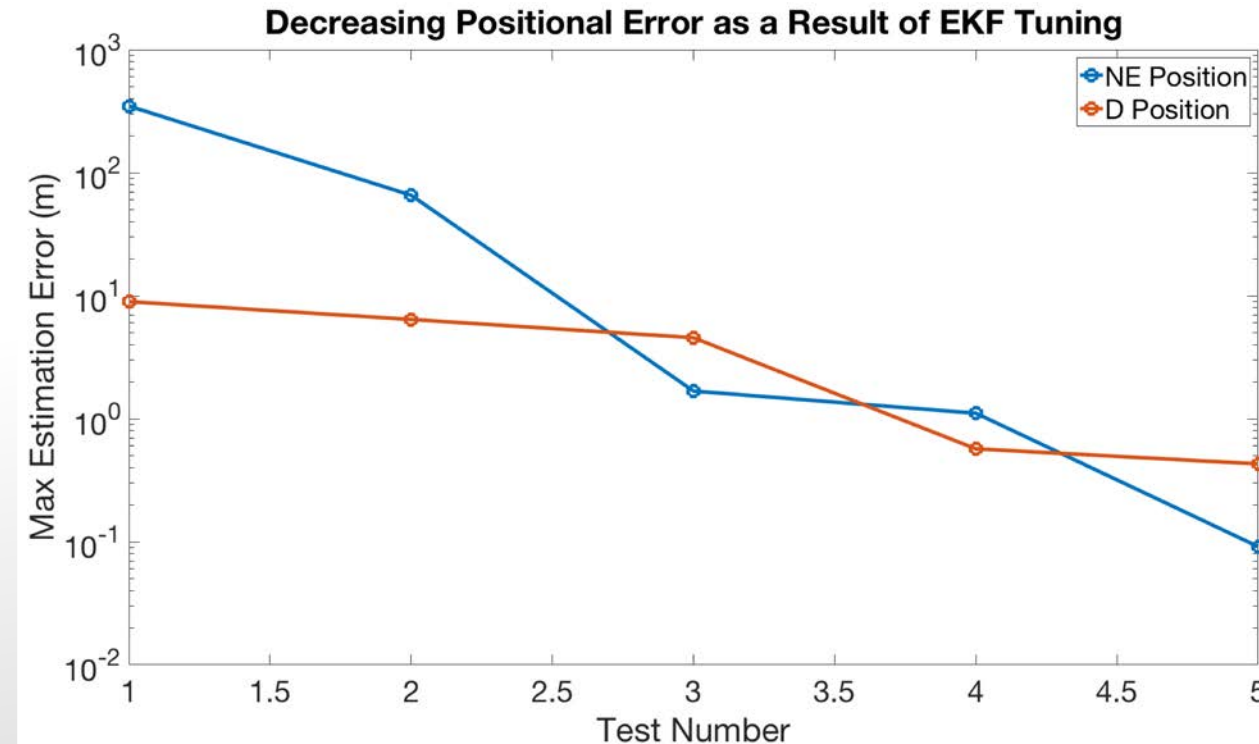


# EKF FLIGHT TESTING AND TUNING

Goal: Reduce the estimated positional error through EKF tuning.

- EKF not given GPS position or velocity. IMU and Magnetometer measurements corrected with GPS
- NE positional error reduced from 25.8 m to 0.17 m as a result of EKF tuning
- Truly GPS denied ground testing has shown 37.4 m after ~100 seconds

Metric of Success: The positional error will decrease with tuning, eventually resulting in under 40 m of horizontal error



NE and D Position error for 5 discrete tests. Note the log scale on the y-axis



# GPS DENIED FLIGHT TESTING

## Objectives:

- Verify ability of UAS to sustain flight in GPS denied state
- Continue tuning EKF
- Achieve level 2 success

## Straight and level GPS Denied flight

- 200 m linear distance through GPS denied region
- GPS denied region set using geographic triggers
- 10 passes through GPS denied region

| Major systems used in testing: |  | Metric for Success  | Data Collected   |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Software                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modified autopilot</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flight mode switches from GPS guided flight to inertial guided flight</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EKF innovations and estimated position</li></ul> |
| UAS                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full flight system</li><li>• Inertial navigation instruments</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UAS maintains straight &amp; level flight with &lt;40 m drift</li></ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GPS position</li></ul>                           |



# DATA LOOKS TOO GOOD

## Problem:

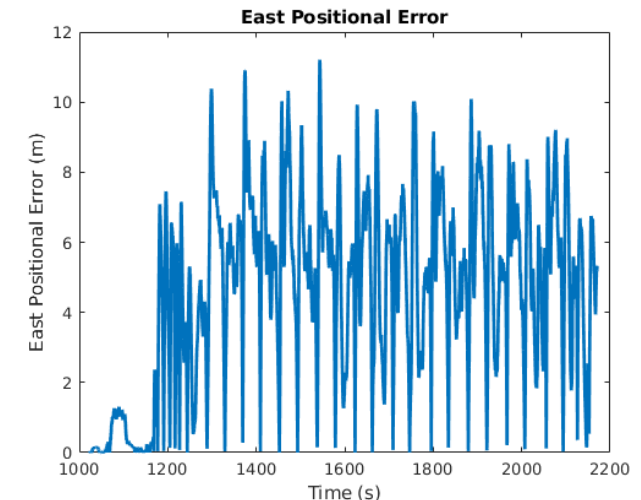
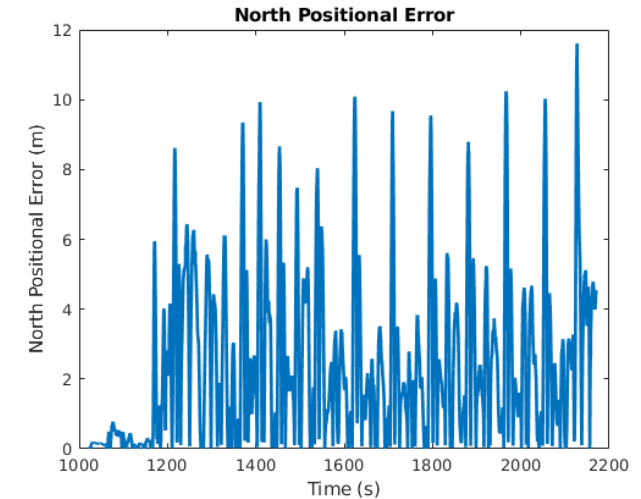
- Upon inspection, positional error was bounded when exponential error was expected
- <10 meter error after 20 minutes

## Reason:

- EKF was fully GPS-denied
- However, inertial sensors were being constantly calibrated using GPS drift estimate

## Result:

- Autopilot software re-visited to truly deny GPS to all state estimation





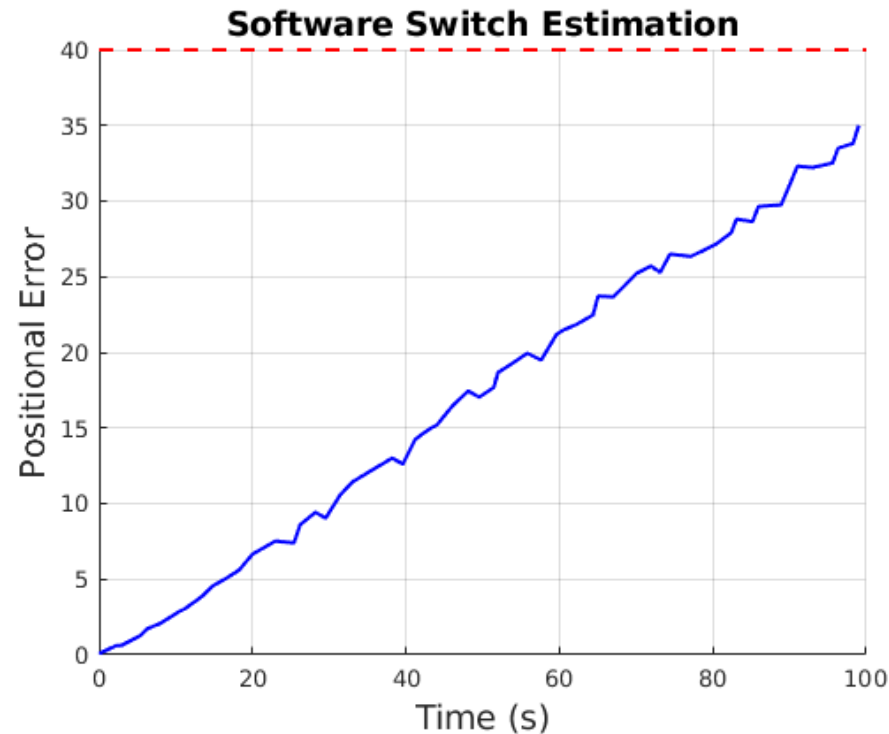


# FLIGHT MODE SWITCH GROUND TEST

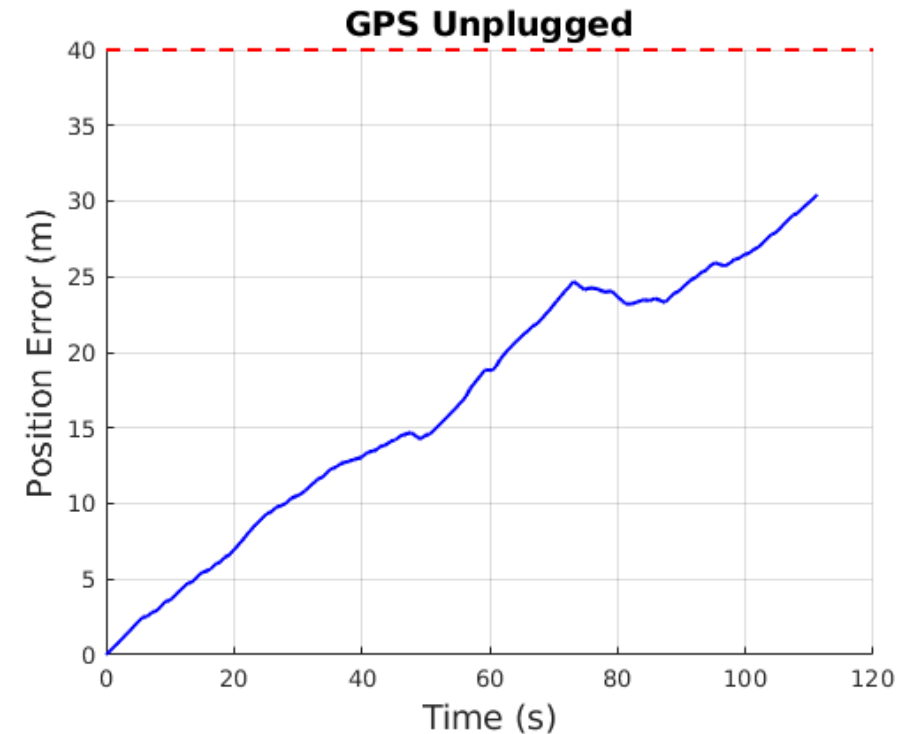
- Objective:
  - Verify ability for autopilot software to switch from GPS guided to inertial guided flight using geographic trigger
- Test Details:
  - Ground Test: walking
  - Conducted on business field at CU
  - Total of 3 passes with GPS unconnected
  - Total of 12 passes with GPS connected
  - Analyzed data in post processing

| Major systems used in testing: |  | Metric for Success  | Data Collected   |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Software                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modified autopilot software</li></ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Average error between GPS connected/ unconnected within 10 m</li><li>• Matching growth trends in positional error</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EKF estimated latitude and longitude</li></ul> |
| UAS                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PixHawk flight controller</li><li>• GPS receiver</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Testbed for software</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GPS position</li></ul>                         |

# GPS SWITCH VERIFICATION



Accuracy  
requirement:  
error  
difference  
< 10 m



Over 12 Passes:

- Average Max Error: 37.4 m
- Average Time: 103.6 s

Over 3 Passes:

- Average Max Error: 30.43 m
- Average Time: 111.3 s

# HARDWARE FAILURE

## Problem:

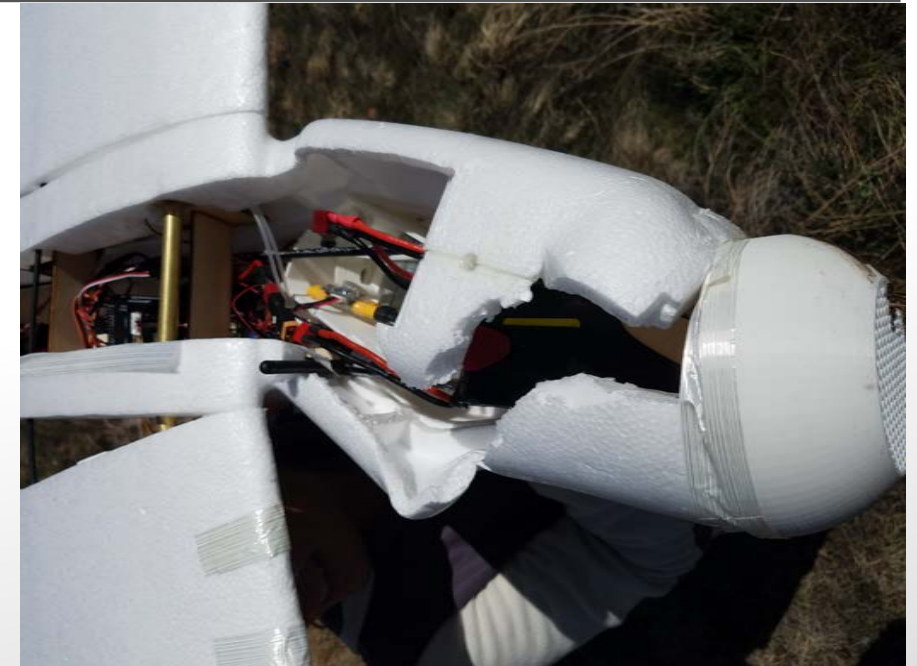
- PixHawk flight controller failed mid-flight due to power loss
- Catastrophic damage to airframe

## Analysis: Caused by broken connector

- Connector briefly disconnected and reconnected, causing a system reboot
- PixHawk could not re-arm during flight

## Future Mitigation:

- Inspect hardware prior to every flight







# GPS DENIED FLIGHT TEST RESULTS

GPS Denied flight testing was not successful; included in future testing plan

| Functional Requirement / Level of Success Validation  |              |
|---|--------------|
| FR 3: The system shall fly and navigate in GPS denied region for linear distance of 1km   | NOT Verified |
| Level 2 Success: The UAS shall allow for maintained straight and level GPS denied flight for 1 km   | NOT Verified |
| Level 3 Success: The UAS shall allow for turning maneuvers in GPS denied conditions and shall keep positional error less than 40 m after 2km of GPS denied flight | NOT Verified |



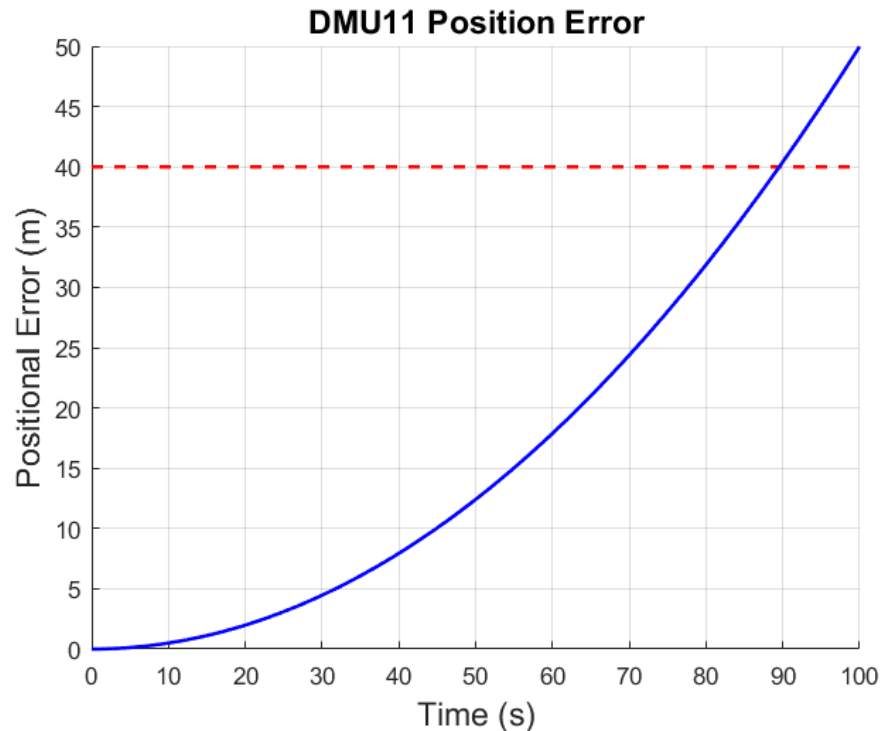
# GPS DENIED PERFORMANCE GROUND TEST

- Objective:
  - Analyze performance of inertial sensors in GPS denied conditions
- Test Details:
  - Ground Test: walking
  - Conducted on business field at CU
  - Total of 2 trials (12 passes) within a GPS denied region
  - Analyzed data in post processing

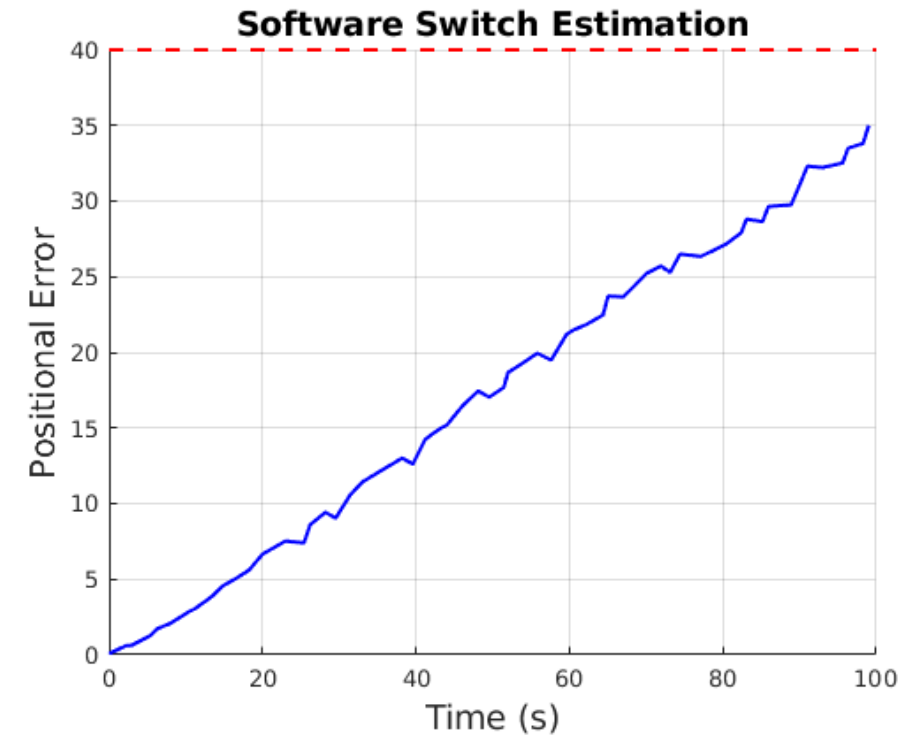
| Major systems used in testing: |  | Metric for Success   | Data Collected   |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Software                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modified autopilot software</li></ul>                      |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EKF Estimated latitude and longitude</li></ul> |
| UAS                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PixHawk flight controller</li><li>• GPS receiver</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inertial sensor produce positional error within 40 m after 100 seconds within GPS denied</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GPS position</li></ul>                         |



# GPS DENIED PERFORMANCE



Accuracy  
requirement:  
positional error  
< 40 m



Predicted Error: 49.98 m  
Time: 100 s

Over 12 Passes:

- Max Error: 69.02 m
- Average Error: 37.4 m
- Average Time: 103.6 s





# LOCALIZATION OVERVIEW

- Test Details:
  - Ground Test: walking
  - Conducted on business field at CU
  - Total of two trials (12 passes)
  - Collected data from Parrot Disco and RAMROD system
  - Performed localization in post-processing
- Functionalities verified:
  - Ability to detect and measure signal from an RFI source
  - Ability to measure estimated position data from EKF in GPS denied

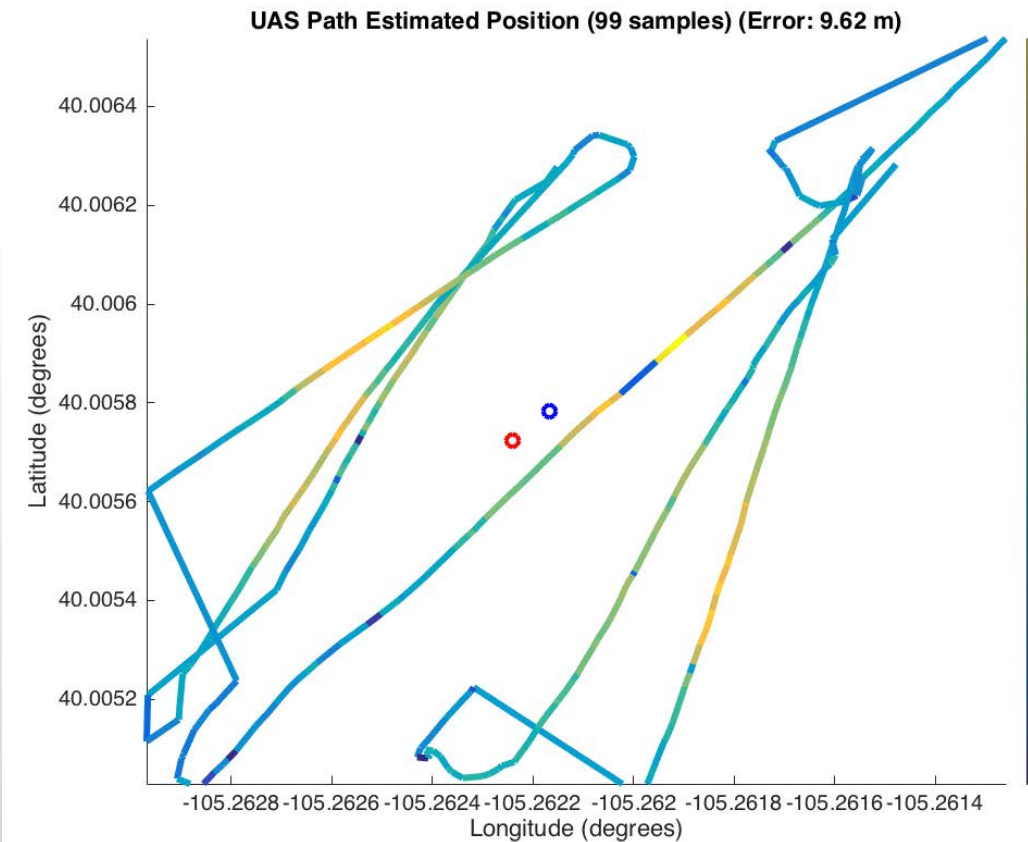
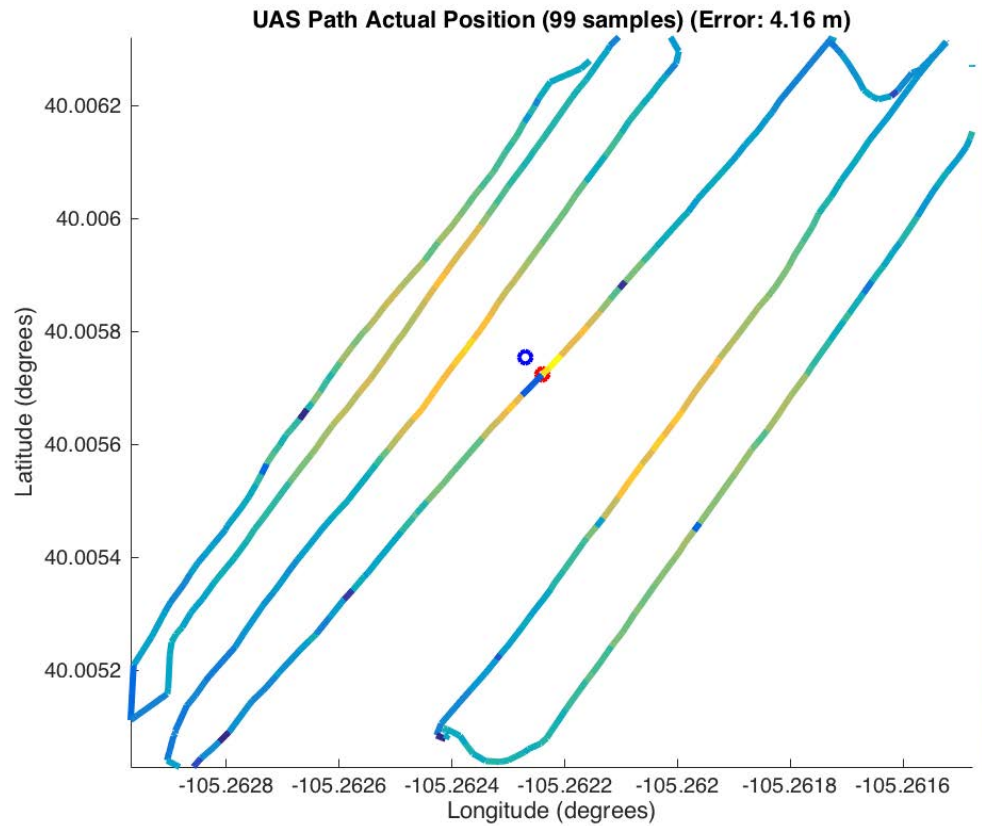
| Major systems used in testing: |   | Metric for Success                 |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Software                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talon flight software,</li><li>• Estimated position (EKF output)</li><li>• Localization algorithm</li></ul> | Localize with 40 m accuracy        |
| UAS                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full flight system</li><li>• Inertial navigation instruments</li></ul>                                      | Positional error < 40 m            |
| Parrot Disco                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2.4GHz receiver</li></ul>   | Measure power data on 2.4 GHz band |



# LOCALIZATION RESULTS

Localization using GPS Position Average Error 6.4 m

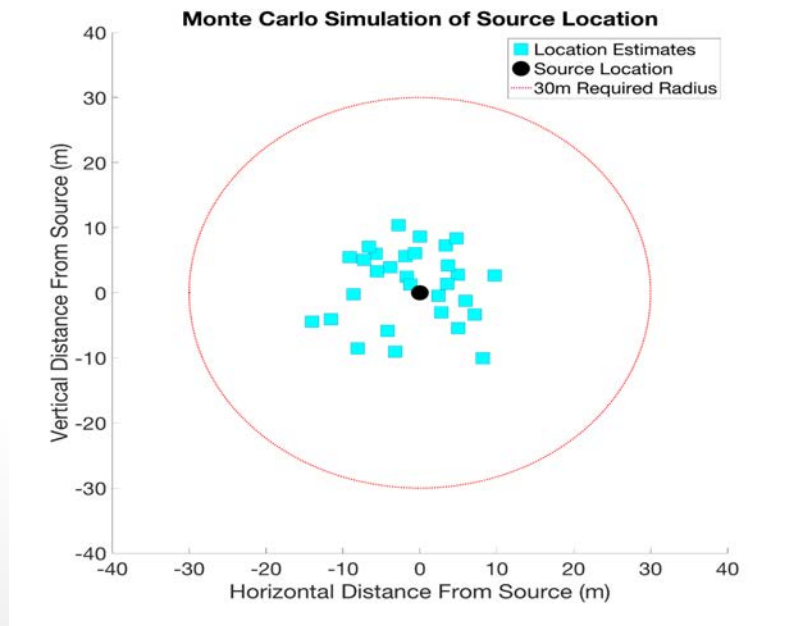
Localization using Estimated Position Average Error: 8.35 m





# LOCALIZATION MODEL VALIDATION

## Localization Model:



- Samples: 100
- Trials: 30
- Accuracy: 8.03 m



**Accuracy  
requirement:  
error < 40 m**

## RAMROD Localization Results

### Localization with Estimated Position Results

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| Trial 1 | 9.62 m |
| Trial 2 | 7.08 m |
| Average | 8.35 m |

- Samples: 99
- Trials: 2
- Average Accuracy: 8.35 m





# LOCALIZATION TEST RESULTS & POWER PROFILE



Localization testing was successful!

## Functional Requirement/ Level of Success Validation

FR 10: The RAMROD system shall generate a power profile of the search area

Verified



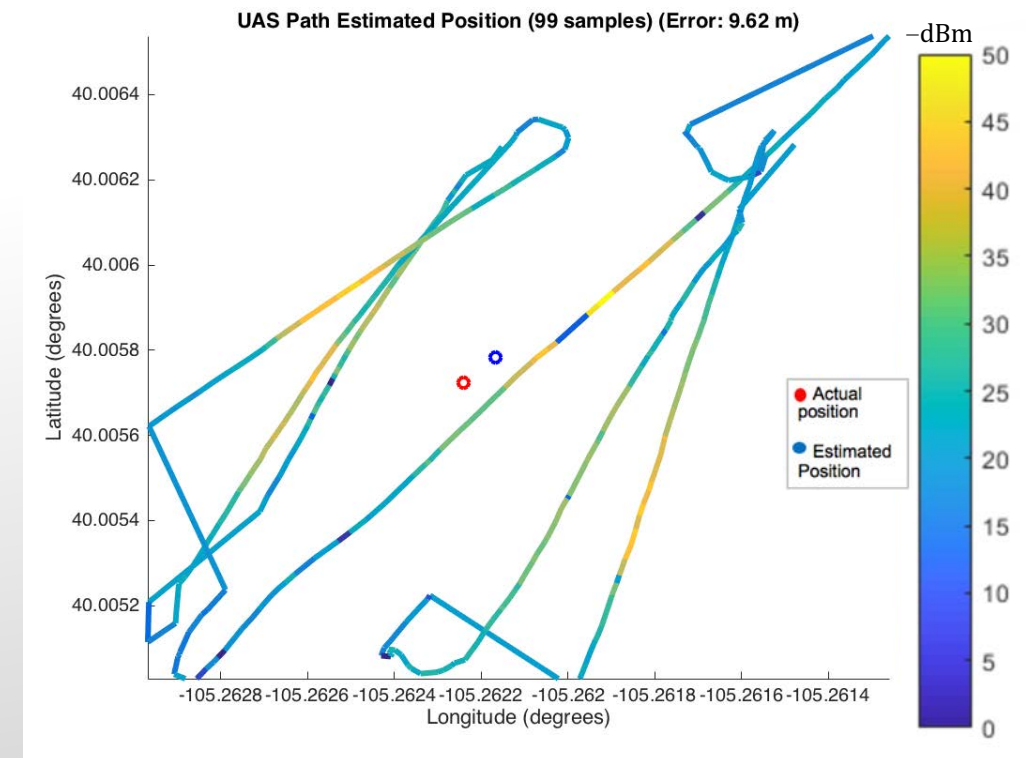
FR 12: The Ramrod system shall measure and localize an RF source

Partially Verified

Level 3 Success: The system shall localize within 40m accuracy

Partially Verified

## RAMROD Power Profile





# FUTURE TESTING

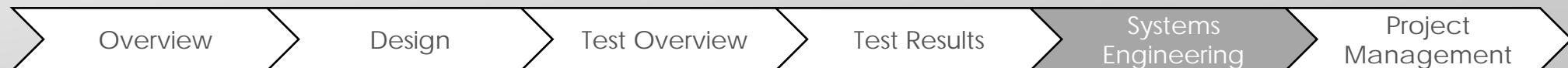
## Agenda:

1. Full scale testing over 3km x 3km search area
2. True GPS denied flight (straight & level)
3. Maneuvers in GPS Denied

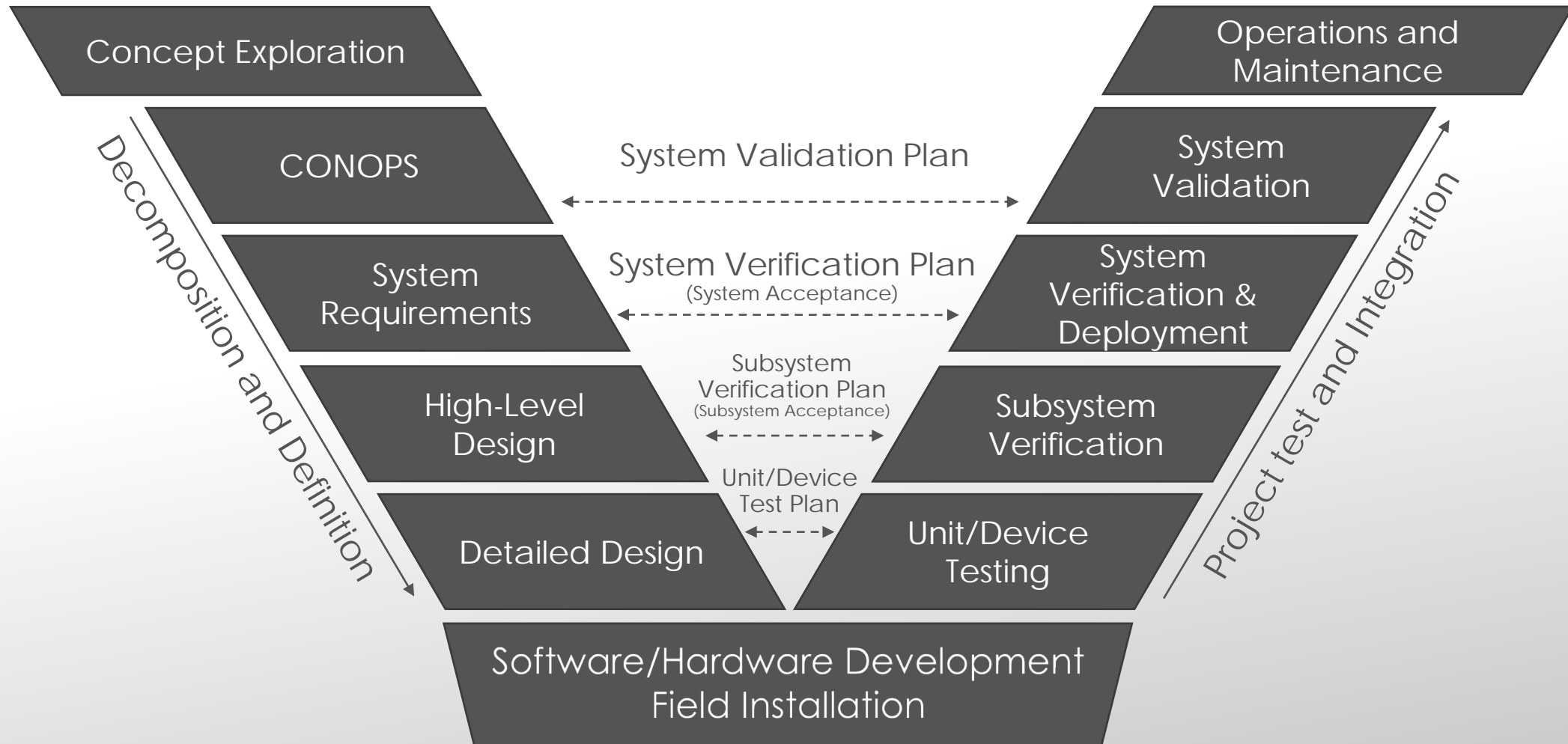
| Functional Requirement/ Level of Success Future Validation  |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| FR 1: The UAS shall sustain flight for at least 60 minutes  | Partially Verified |
| FR 3: The system shall fly and navigate in GPS denied region for linear distance of 1km   | NOT Verified       |
| Level 2 Success: The UAS shall have the ability to fly autonomously for 60 minutes with GPS active  | Partially Verified |
| Level 2 Success: Shall allow for maintained straight and level GPS denied flight for 1 km   | NOT Verified       |
| Level 3 Success: The UAS shall allow for turning maneuvers in GPS denied conditions and shall keep positional error less than 40m after 2 km of GPS denied flight | NOT Verified       |



# SYSTEMS ENGINEERING



# SYSTEMS ENGINEERING V MODEL







# CONCEPT EXPLORATION

## Concept Exploration

Decomposition and Definition

CONOPS

System  
Requirements

High-Level  
Design

Detailed Design

## Basic Functional Objectives:

- Fly in GPS denied environment
  - Created need to detect when GPS is cut
- Localize RFI device
  - Created requirement for downlinking data
- One hour flight time
  - Created need for efficient flight platform



# CONOPS & SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Concept Exploration

CONOPS

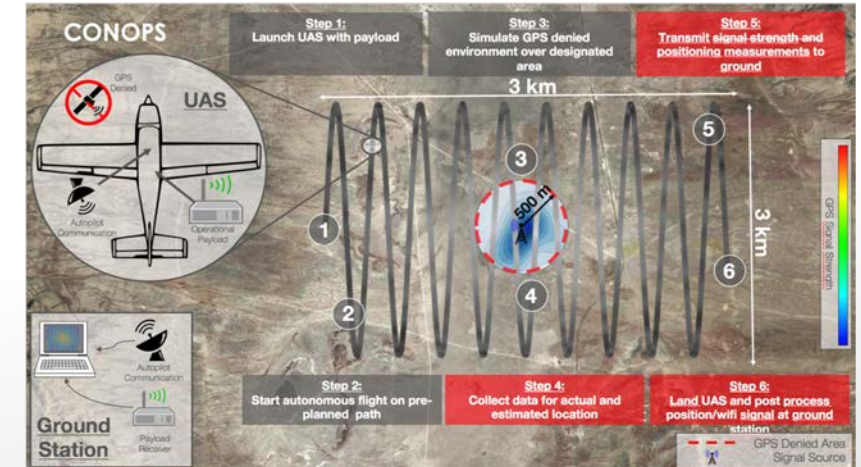
System Requirements

High-Level Design

Detailed Design

Decomposition and Definition

CONOPS was critical for project definition



Requirements Development:

- Requirements stemmed from CONOPS
- Trade Studies
- Derived from each subsystem

Overview

Design

Test Overview

Test Results

Systems Engineering

Project Management

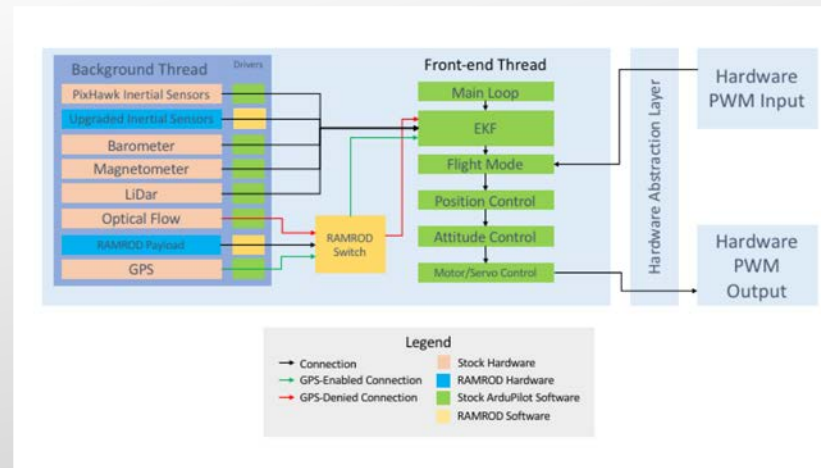


# PROJECT DESIGN

## Key Trade Study: GPS Denied Guidance

1. Dead Reckoning w/ Inertial Navigation System – light weight, not computationally expensive
2. LiDAR based Localization and Mapping – expensive, computationally expensive
3. LTE Localization – only estimates 2D, high position error

## Detailed Design:

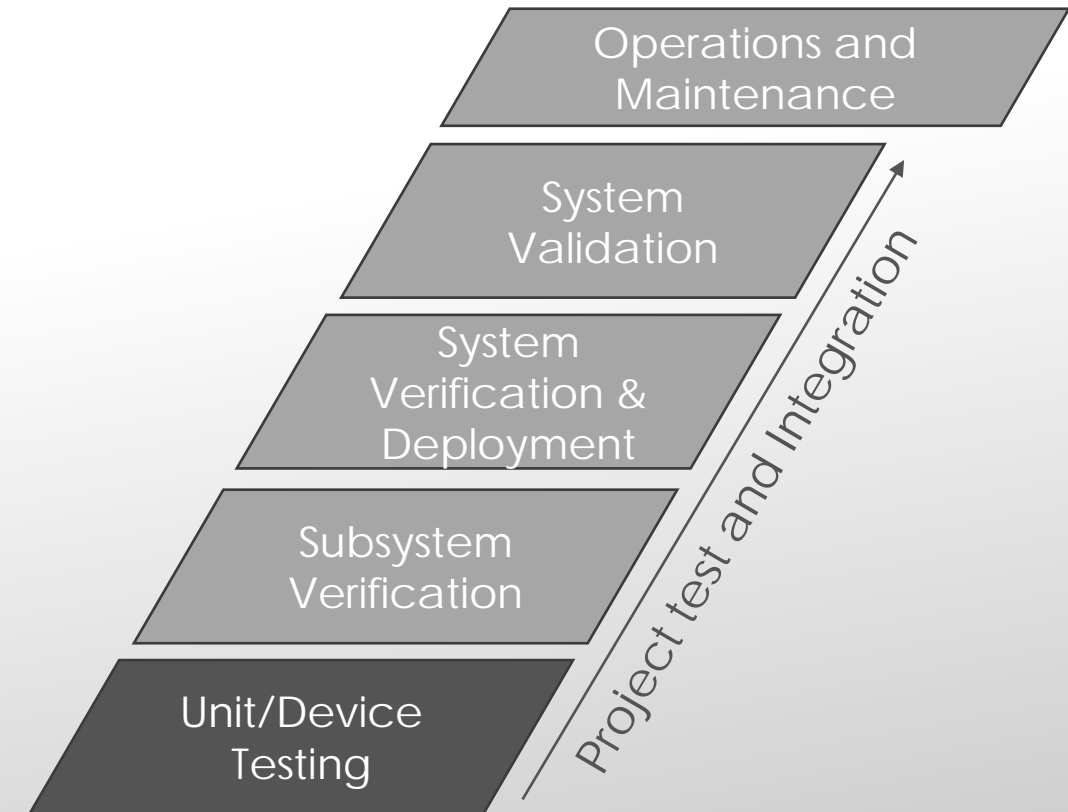




# UNIT/DEVICE TESTING

## Unit Testing:

1. Motor Test
2. Static Ground Test with IMU
  - Verify the specifications from the manufacturer
3. CG Placement
  - Verify that the CG is in the correct location for flight tests







# SUBSYSTEM VERIFICATION

## UAS Verification

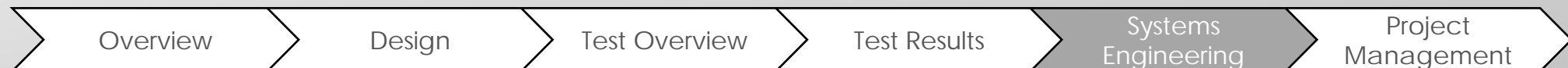
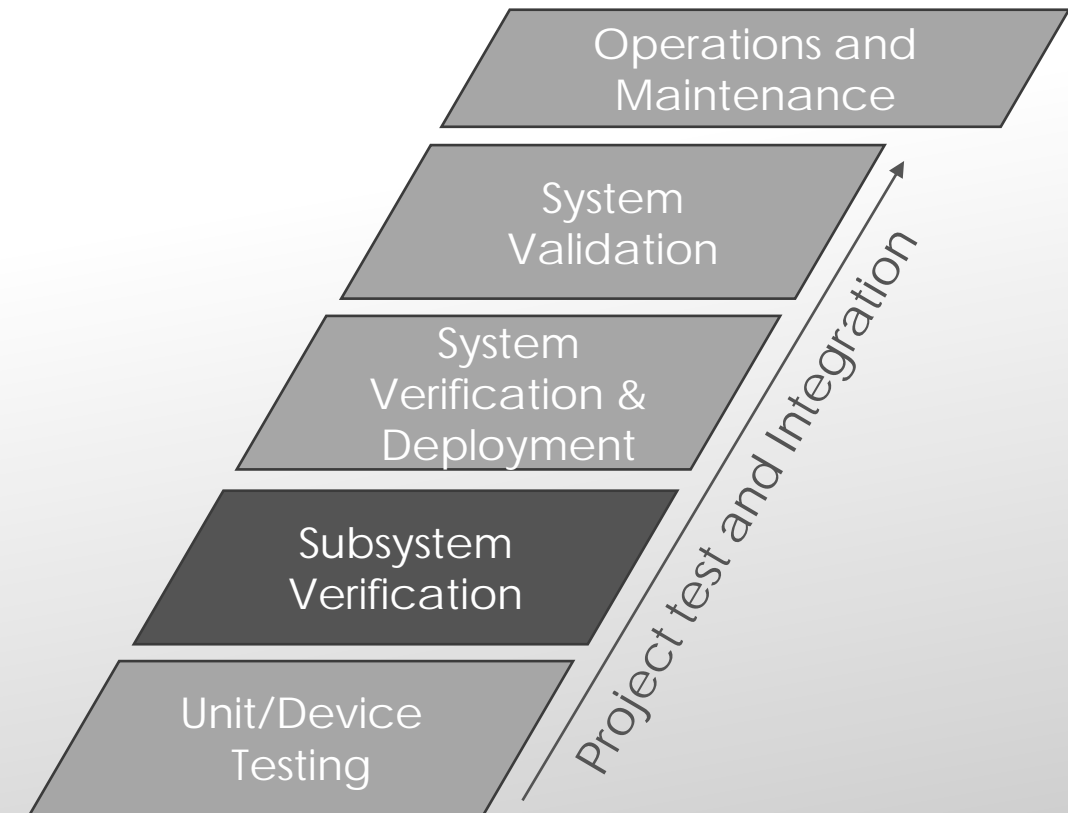
- Airframe assembly
- Calibration flight

## Payload Verification

- Downlink testing
- Power test

## Autopilot Verification

- Ran software and hardware tests
- Used ArduPilot testing to verify software





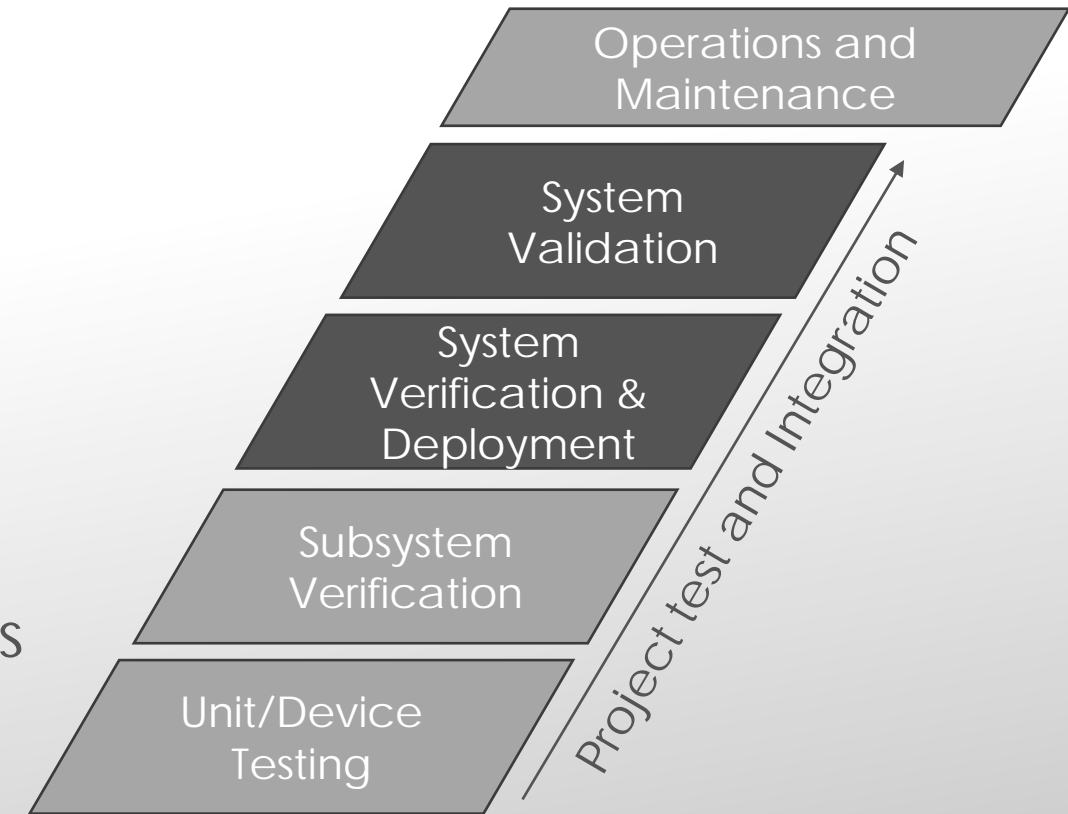
# SYSTEM VALIDATION

## GPS Denied Flight:

- Goals
  - Fly in GPS denied conditions for 2 km
  - Perform maneuvers in GPS denied
  - Tune the Kalman Filter for our aircraft
- Result
  - Incomplete

## Localization:

- Goals
  - Localize signal source within 40 meters
- Result
  - Partially Validated





# CDR LEVEL RISK

|    |  |
|----|--|
| R1 | Too much noise in the AGC data                           |
| R2 | Time taken to switch flight modes is over 1 second       |
| R3 | Structural damage to airframe during take off/landing    |
| R4 | Plane lands in wrong location during autonomous landings |
| R5 | Line of sight of the UAS is lost                         |
| R6 | Higher rate of error due to simulations being incorrect  |
| R7 | There is not enough bandwidth to downlink the AGC data   |

Did not occur

Occurred, no  
major impact

Occurred,  
major impact



# ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Risks that were not thought of during design:

Weather

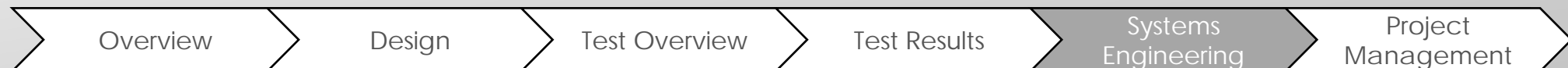
- Numerous tests were postponed due to weather (wind, snow, rain, etc.)

Availability

- Testing at CU South Boulder required two days notification
- Not able to test at Table Mountain
- Never heard back from Boulder Model Airfield

Faulty parts from manufacturer

- Design change of battery during project
- Flight controller board stopped working
- Electronic speed controller did not work







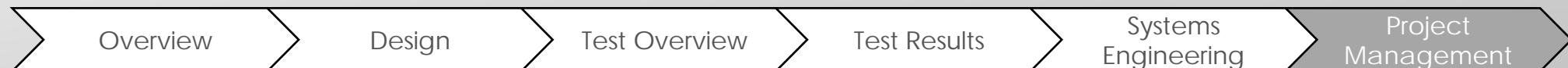
# LESSONS LEARNED

- Importance of subsystem testing
- Engineering design process
- Contingency planning
- Expect the little things to happen
- Murphy's Law





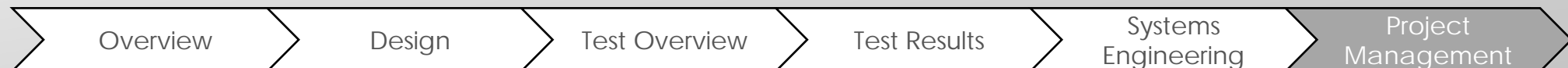
# PROJECT MANAGEMENT





# MANAGEMENT PROCESS

- Team communication is key to success
  - Weekly full team meetings 1-2 times per week
  - Communication via Slack
  - Weekly meetings with customer
- Each subsystem has a lead to ensure each subsystem meets all requirements
- All major changes and issues are reviewed by entire team
  - Minor changes only needed subsystem approval
- Dead lines set on a weekly basis during team meetings





# MANAGEMENT SUCCESSES/DIFFICULTIES



## Successes

Process worked very well for design portion of the project

Weekly meeting ensured everyone was aware of the current project status

## Difficulties

Team communication degraded over time

Lack of accountability for deadlines and tasks

Could not sustain so many delays during manufacturing and testing

## Lessons Learned

There must be a way to hold team members accountable for tasks

Must actively ensure that all required subsystem communication occurs

Things will rarely get done when they are supposed to





# CDR BUDGET VS CURRENT BUDGET

| Subgroup        | Final Expense | Expense at CDR | Difference |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| UAS             | 2602          | 2184           | - \$418    |
| Payload         | 1240          | 1315           | + \$75     |
| Misc. Hardware  | 490           | 230            | - \$260    |
| Bungee Launcher | 95            | 25             | -\$70      |
| Margin          | 0             | 750            | +\$750     |
| Total           | 4427          | 4504           | + \$77     |

## Unexpected Expenses

- Hardware replacements from crashes
- Additional Batteries
- LTE server

**\$573 Under Budget!**

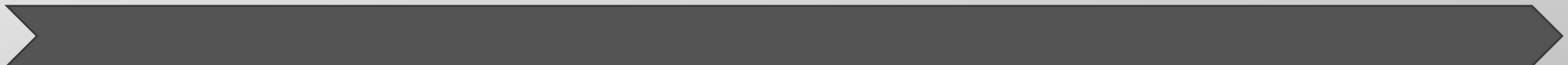


# ESTIMATED TOTAL COST

| Cost                        | Amount     |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| First Semester Hours: 2263  | \$ 70,718  |
| Spring Semester Hours: 1913 | \$ 59,782  |
| Total Hours: 4176           | \$130,500  |
| Material Cost               | \$ 4,427   |
| Subtotal                    | \$134,927  |
| 200% Overhead               | \$ 261,000 |
| Estimated Total             | \$ 395,927 |



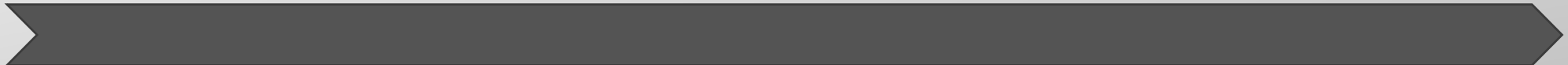
# QUESTIONS





# BACKUP SLIDES

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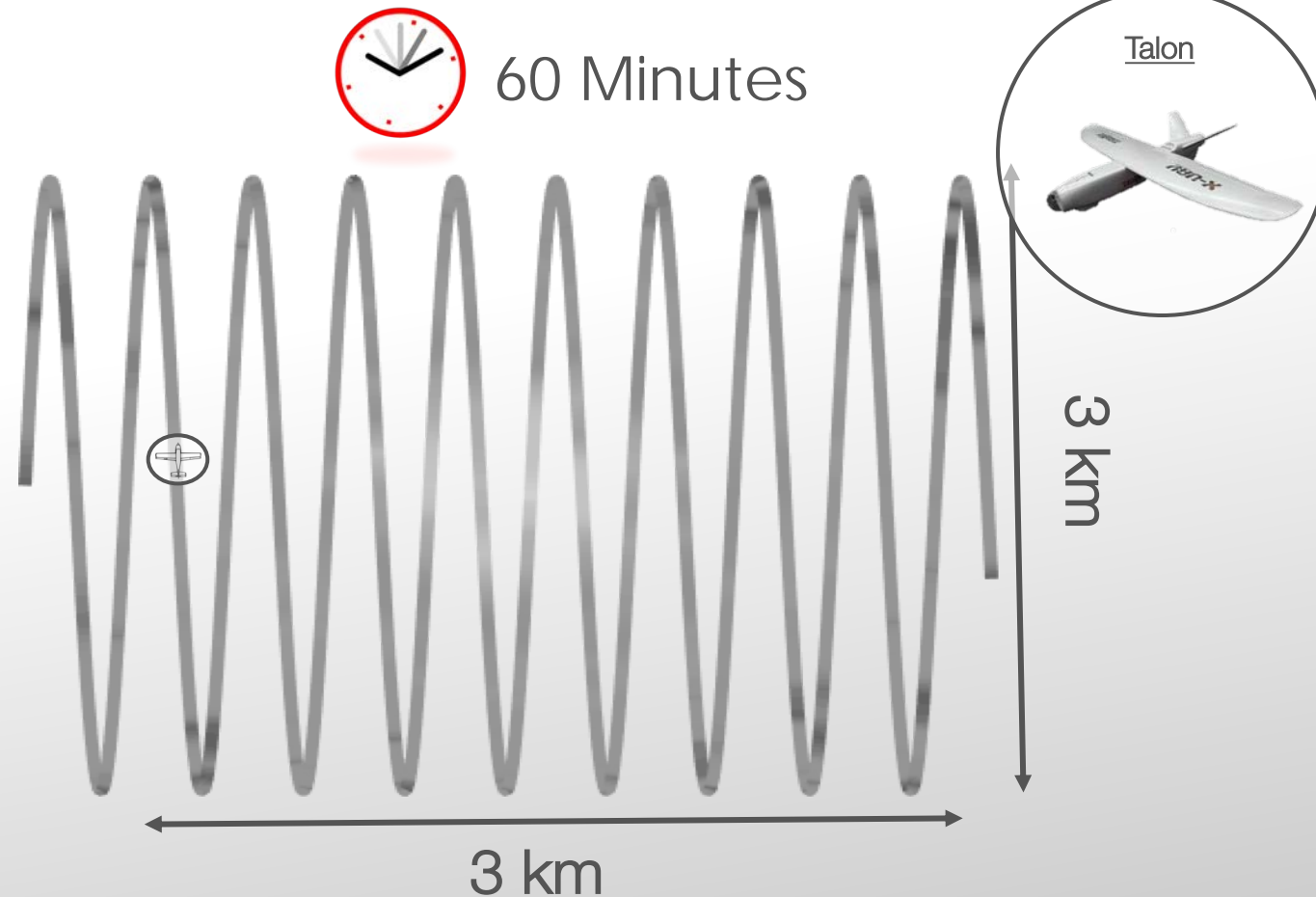




# FULL SCALE SEARCH AREA

## Objectives:

1. Extend RAMROD search area to 3km x 3km search area
2. Ensure UAS is capable of 60 minute autonomous flight time
3. Verify autonomous landing capabilities
4. Achieve level 2 success and verify FR 3





# TRUE GPS DENIED STRAIGHT AND LEVEL

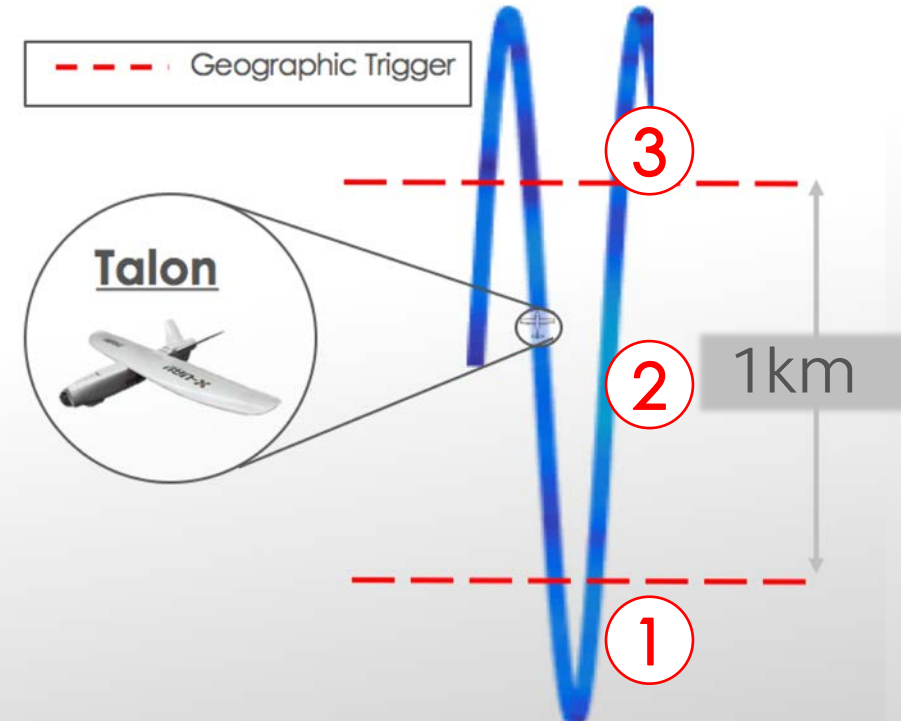
## Objectives:

1. Continue tuning EKF
2. Verify that UAS can sustain flight in GPS denied state
3. Achieve level 2 success

Geographic Location triggers switch to GPS Denied flight mode

Talon flies straight for 200 meters with inertial navigation

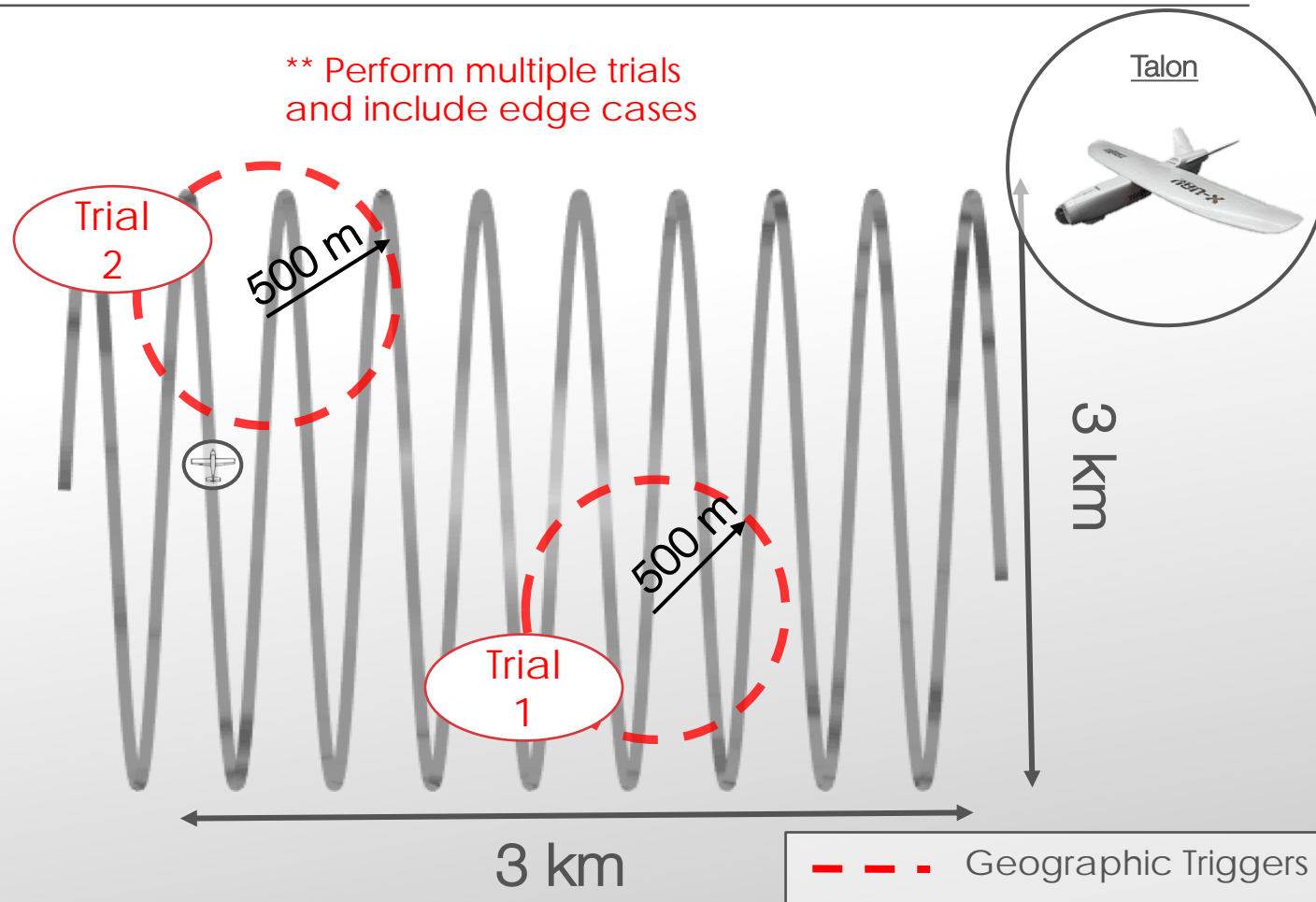
Autopilot switched back to GPS enabled state and completes flight plan guided with GPS



# MANEUVERS IN GPS DENIED

## Objectives:

1. Ensure UAS can maneuver around waypoints in GPS denied state
2. Include multiple trials for performance analysis
3. Full system integration
4. Achieve level 3 success

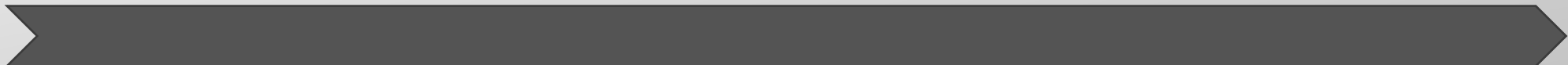




## \*REFERENCE SLIDES\*

---

- Not included in presentation, used for reference for requirement verification
- Use these as a reference for our requirements verification and data collection!





# FR 1: THE UAS SHALL SUSTAIN FLIGHT FOR 60 MINUTES



## Test:

1. Fly at 40% throttle with max weight
2. Ensure UAS capable of 60 minute flight

## Verification

1. Use Pixhawk data to verify 60 minute flight
2. Extrapolate data to analyze flight time capabilities
3. Compare to Power Model from PDR





## FR 2: UAS SHALL BE CAPABLE OF FLYING IN 30KM/HR WINDS



### Test:

1. Fly at 80% throttle with max weight
2. Ensure UAS capable of 30km/hr flight speed for 60 minutes

### Verification

1. Use pixhawk data to analyze max speed and average speed
2. Analyze throttle needed to achieve 30km/hr sustained 60 minute flight
3. Extrapolate data and analyze performance
  - Show throttle vs speed data
  - Compare to flight model



## FR 3: THE SYSTEM SHALL FLY AND NAVIGATE IN GPS DENIED REGION FOR LINEAR DISTANCE OF 1KM



### Test:

1. TRR Plan: Initial GPS denied flight

### Verification

1. Quantify position error
2. Ensure inertial drift is below 40m
3. Perform 5-10 redundant tests and analyze error
4. Compare to static IMU model



# FR: 4 UAS SHALL FLY WITH ALL NECESSARY HW AND INSTRUMENTATION

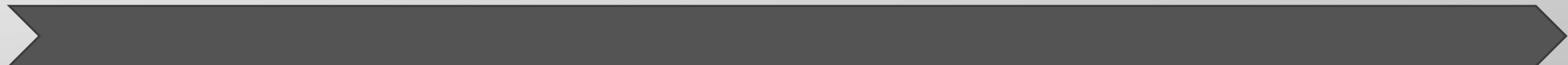


## Test:

1. Fly at 40% throttle with max weight
2. Ensure UAS capable of 60 minute flight

## Verification

1. Use Pixhawk data to verify 60 minute flight
2. Extrapolate data to analyze flight time capabilities
3. Compare to Power Model from PDR





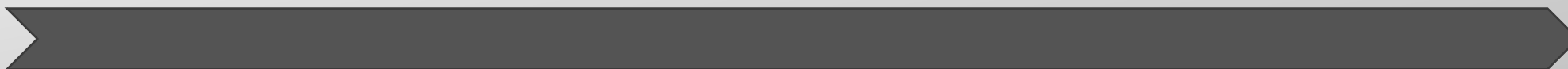
# FR 5: THE UAS SHALL ADHERE TO ALL FAA & CU REGULATIONS

---



## Verification

### 1. Inspection





# FR 6: UAS SHALL BE CAPABLE OF FLYING THE PAYLOAD



## Test:

1. How does battery life depend on UAS weight?
2. What is max flight time with full payload weight?
3. What is max speed with full payload weight (for 60 minute flight)

## Verification

1. Inspection: show that payload fits inside UAS
2. Show UAS is capable of 60 minute flight at current weight (with payload)
3. Compare to Power Model from PDR





# FR 7: THE PAYLOAD SHALL BE CAPABLE OF FULL AUTONOMOUS FLIGHT



## Test:

1. Show parameters for autonomous flight (including launch, landing, and flight path)
2. Fly autonomously around a series of set waypoints to analyze the accuracy of the UAS on the flight path

## Verification

1. Present the average distance to a waypoint that the UAS achieves during autonomous flight
2. Analyze error



# FR 8: THE RAMROD SYSTEM SHALL SEAMLESSLY SWITCH FROM GPS GUIDED FLIGHT TO INERTIAL GUIDED FLIGHT WITHIN ONE SECOND



## Test:

1. Ground test: test switch time and switch capabilities
2. Ground test: flight mode switch using actual AGC data? (data from Akos?)
3. Flight test: test the flight mode switch during flight

## Verification

1. Present ground test results -> verify ground test capabilities
2. Present flight test results
3. Verify switch time results
4. Analyze error
  - Average switch time?
  - Number of failed switches?
  - SD of data sets



## FR 9: THE RAMROD SYSTEM SHALL DOWNLINK THREE DEGREES OF FREEDOM ,AGC AND I.F. DATA

---



### Test:

1. Downlink data and ensure that downlink speed matches 4G LTE network capability

### Verification

1. Present downlink speed and capability
2. Number of dropped packets?



# FR 10: THE RAMROD SYSTEM SHALL GENERATE A POWER PROFILE OF THE SEARCH AREA

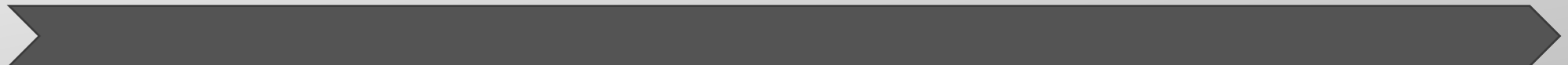


## Test:

1. Gather ACG data using Parrot disco
2. Gather position data using Talon
3. Generate power profile

## Verification

1. Present power profile
2. Analyze error in true position and estimate position in power profile





# FR 11: THE PAYLOAD SHALL FIT INSIDE THE UAS

---

Test:

1. Is this one even necessary?





# FR 12: THE RAMROD SYSTEM SHALL MEASURE AND LOCALIZE AN RF SOURCE

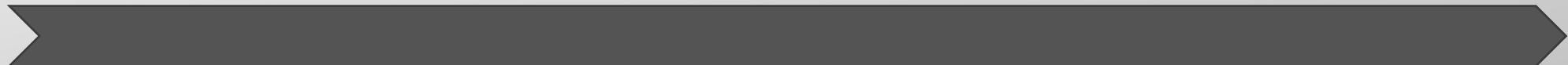


## Test:

1. Collect AGC data using payload
2. Gather inertial drift data from static tests, ground test, and flight test.
3. Localize source using Disco/Talon

## Verification

1. Show that data is accurate AGC data linked with a geographic position
2. Present localization accuracy
3. Analyze error
4. Compare to PDOA model





# PAYLOAD DOWNLINKING TESTS

Downlinking: Upload AGC data received to a web server and download onto a ground computer

Purpose: To understand possible data rates and access collected AGC data during a live test, To verify requirements FR?, FR?, and FR?.

- 5 speedtest.net tests at various positions at testing location to determine data rates
- Downlinking test to ensure proper data transfer MZ -> server -> ground computer

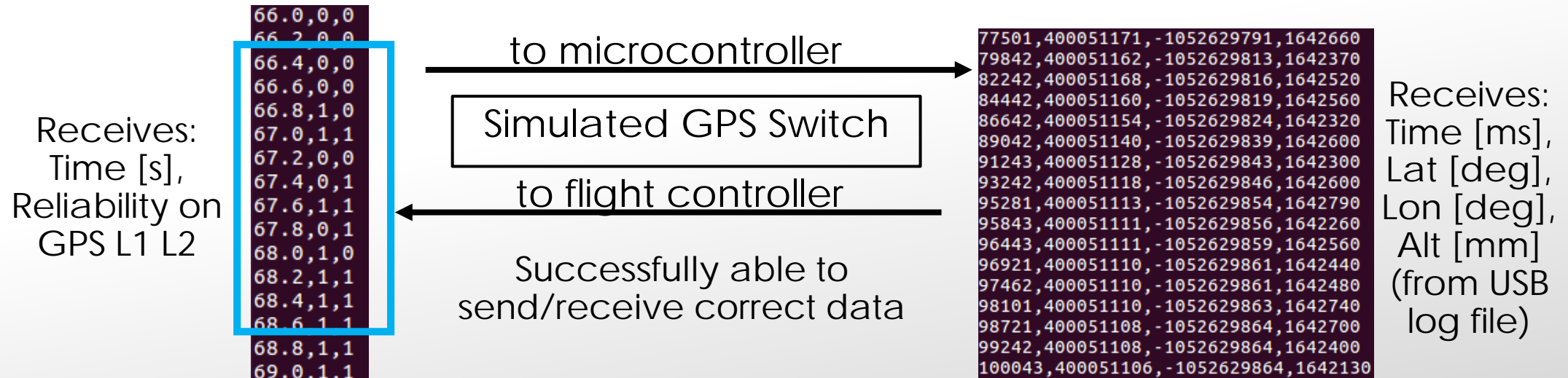
## Components

- GPS Antenna and Signal Filter
- Microcontroller and USB Drive
- Battery Pack
- 4G LTE Modem
- Ground Computer





# PIXHAWK/MICROZED INTERFACE TESTS

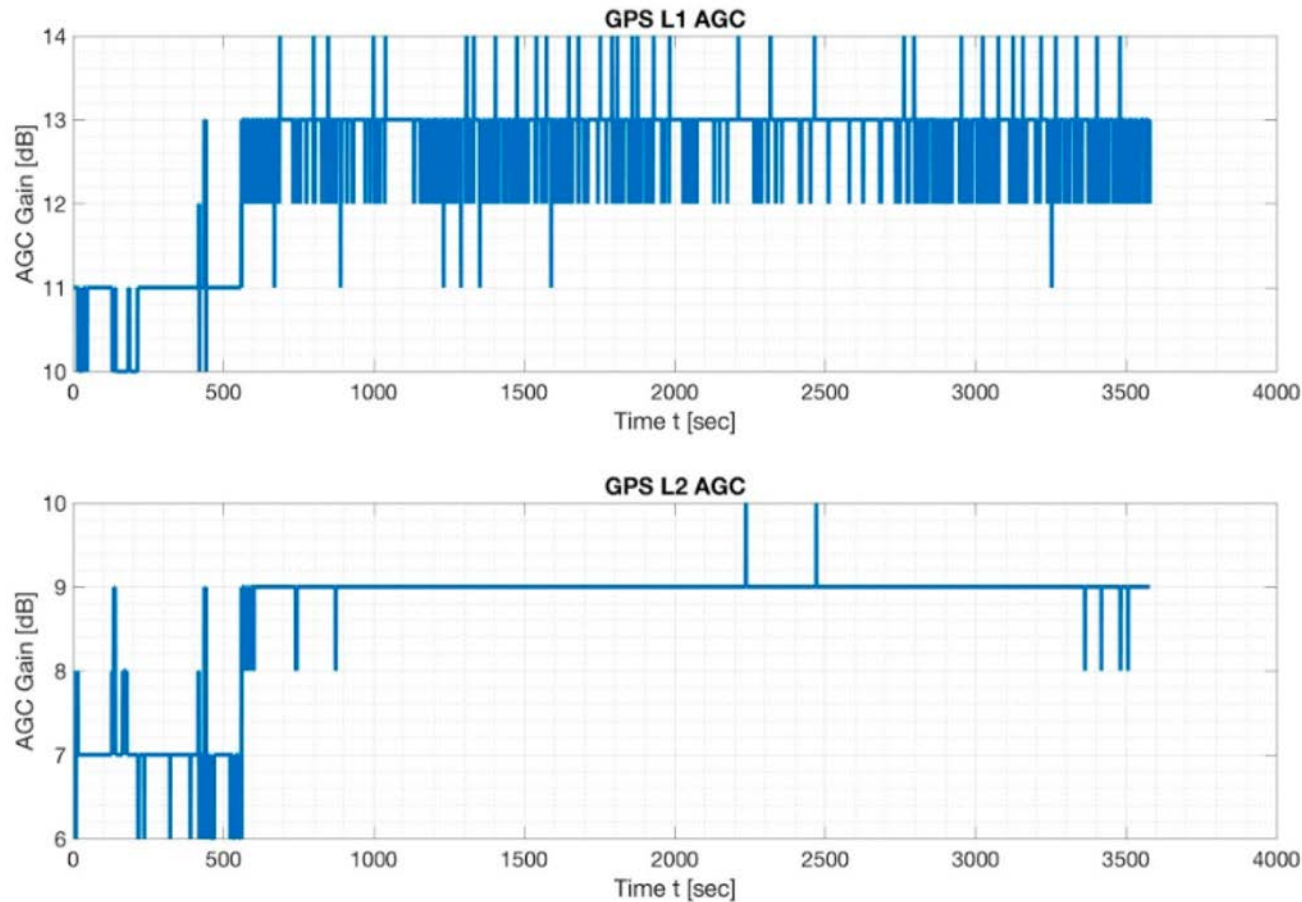




# PAYLOAD AGC CHARACTERIZATION TESTS



## 60-minute Test



GPS data collected for 60 minutes:

- Test run at the Lockheed Martin Conference table
- Can log data for 60 minutes

Purpose:

- Characterize GPS data
- Ensure data can be logged for 60 minutes.



# INERTIAL SENSOR INTEGRATION TEST

## Objective

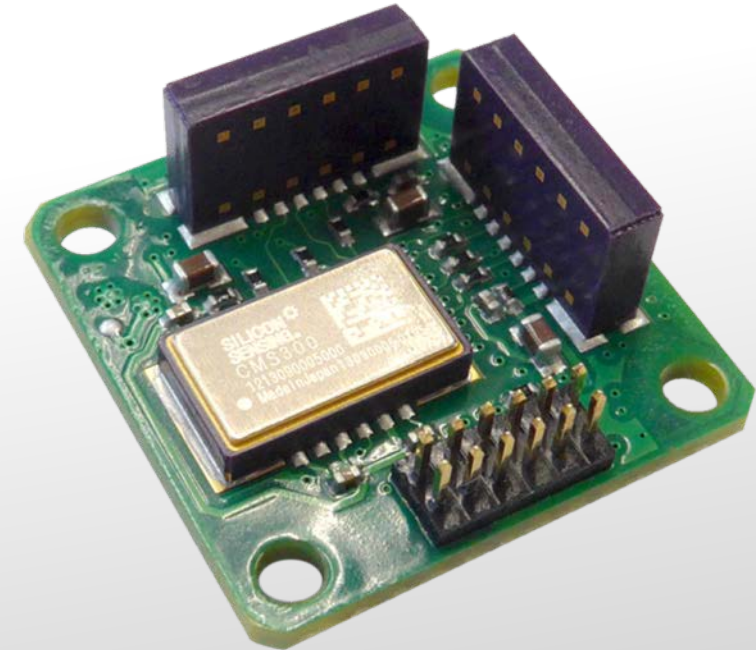
- Verify IMU is capable of interfacing with PixHawk in Autopilot

## Description

- 10 minute autonomous flight at CU South Boulder
- Triangular pattern over 300 m area.

## Measurements

- GPS position and estimated position data recorded onboard PixHawk flight controller
- NED coordinates directly from GPS
- NED coordinate estimated from Kalman Filter with new IMU input



DMU 11

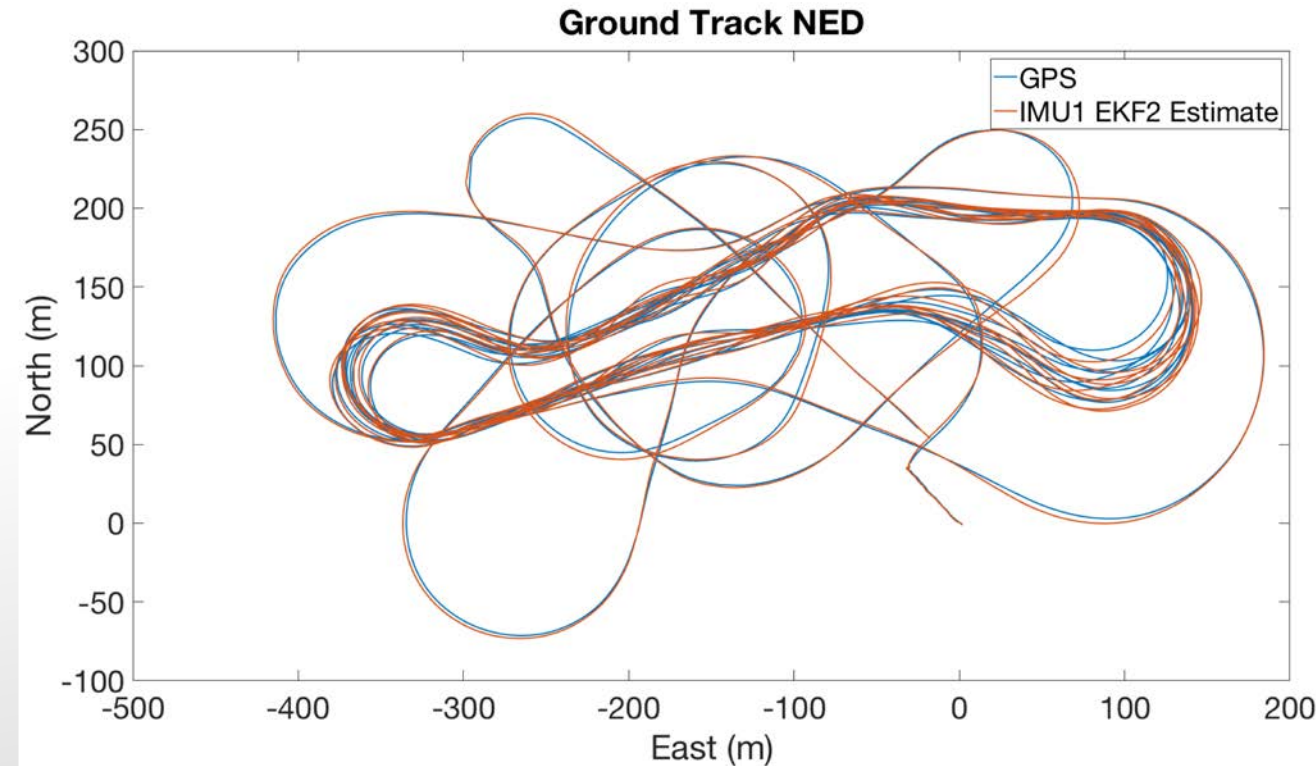




# INERTIAL SENSOR INTEGRATION TEST

## Result

- Ground track estimated by EKF (given inertial sensor measurements) aligns with GPS ground track



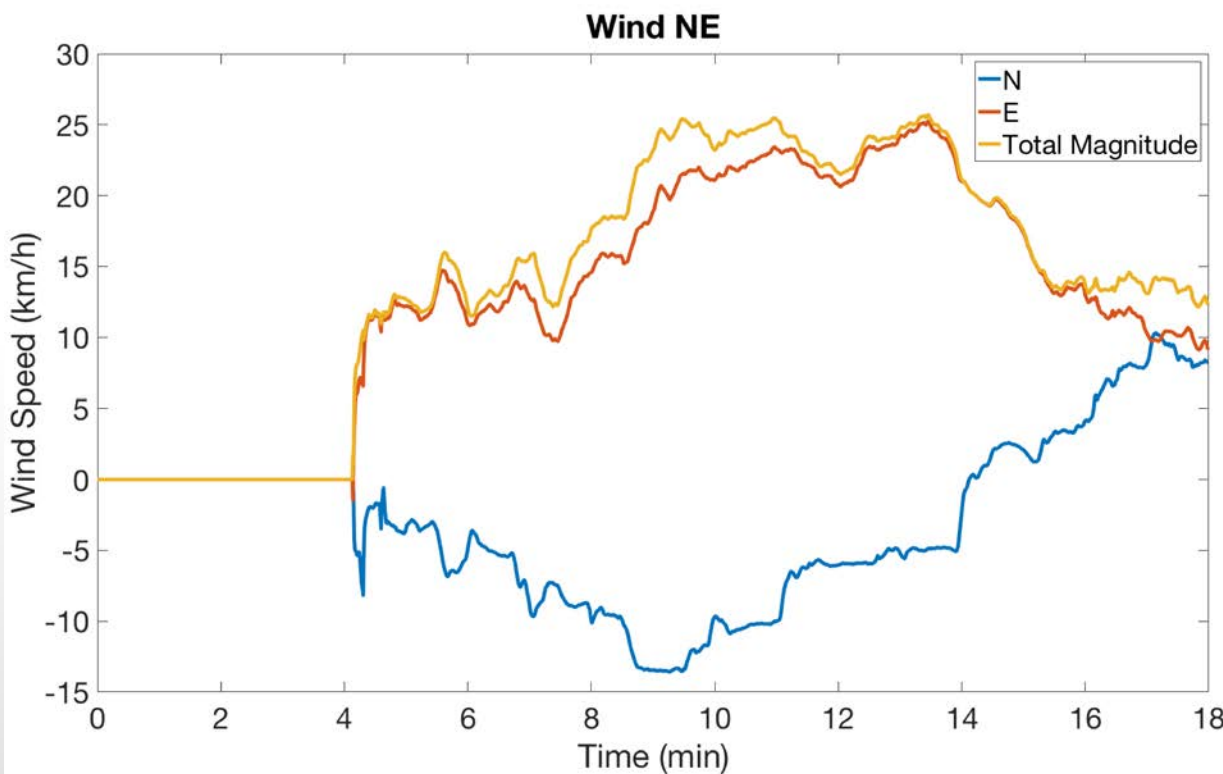


# FR 2: THE UAS SHALL BE CAPABLE OF FLYING IN 30 KPH WINDS



## Description

- 14 minute flight conducted in winds averaging 18.2 kph
- Maximum wind of 25.7 kph
- UAS performed fine in the air, though had difficulties with landing



## Functional Requirement Validation

FR 2: The UAS shall be capable of flying in 30 kph winds

Partially  
Verified



# INERTIAL SENSOR INTEGRATION TEST

## Verification - Almost

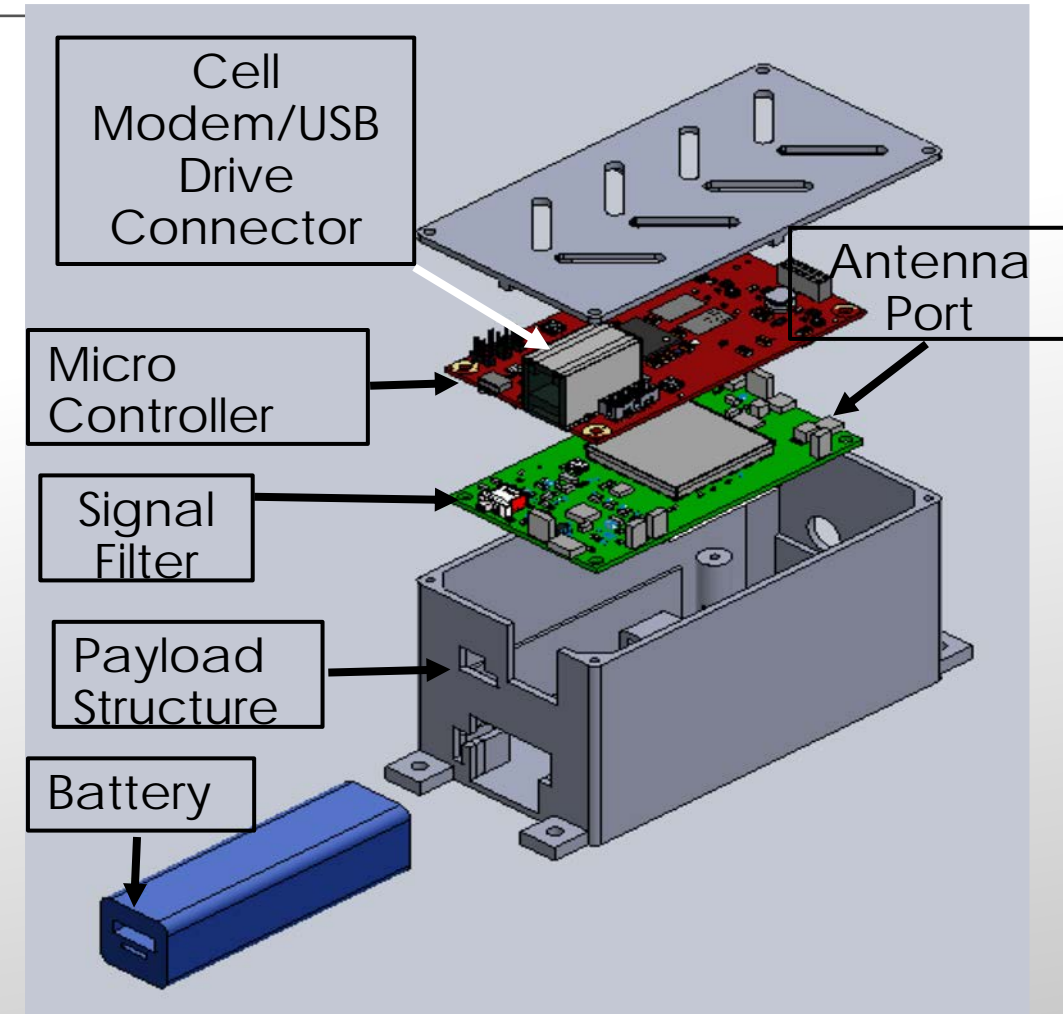
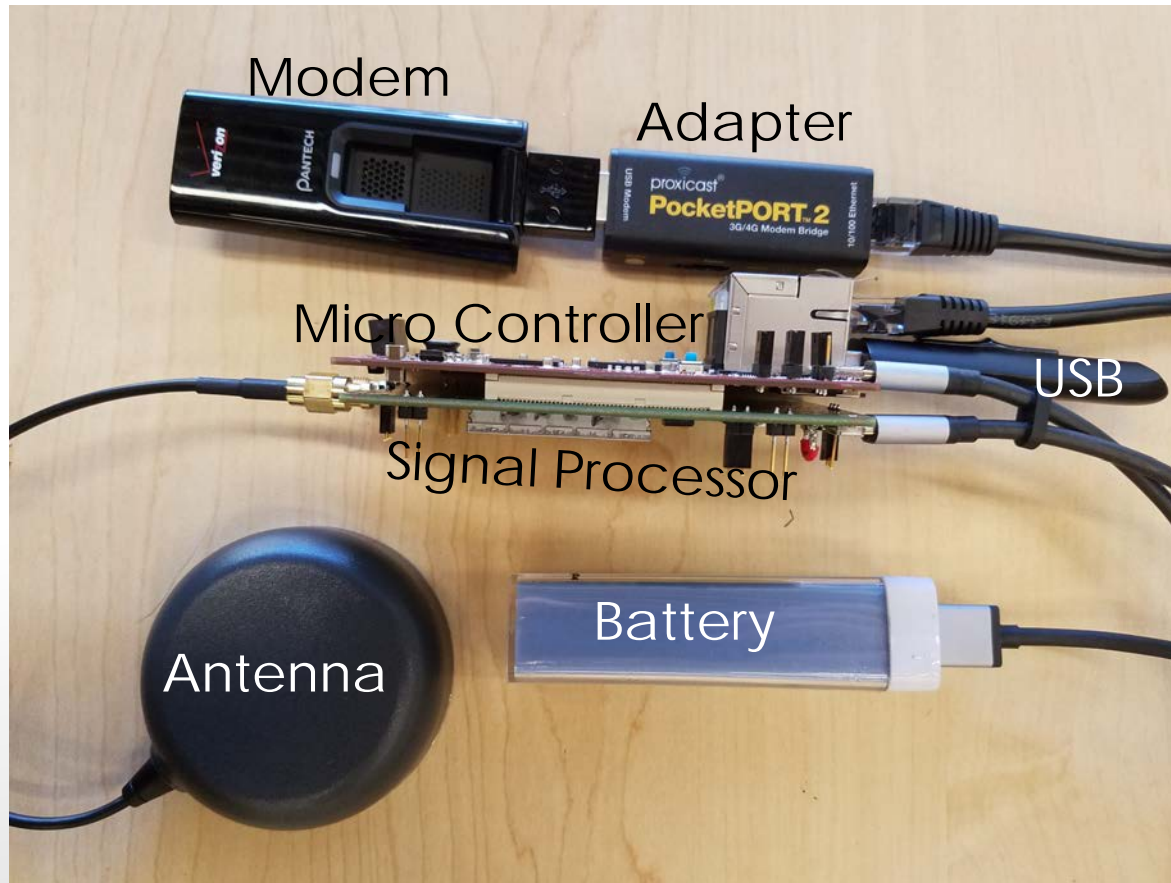
- FR 3: The system shall fly and navigate in GPS denied region for a linear distance of 1 km
  - Confirm inertial drift is under 40 m

## Confidence

- Flight controller can interface with 3<sup>rd</sup> part inertial sensor
- Capable of remaining under inertial drift requirement while GPS denied





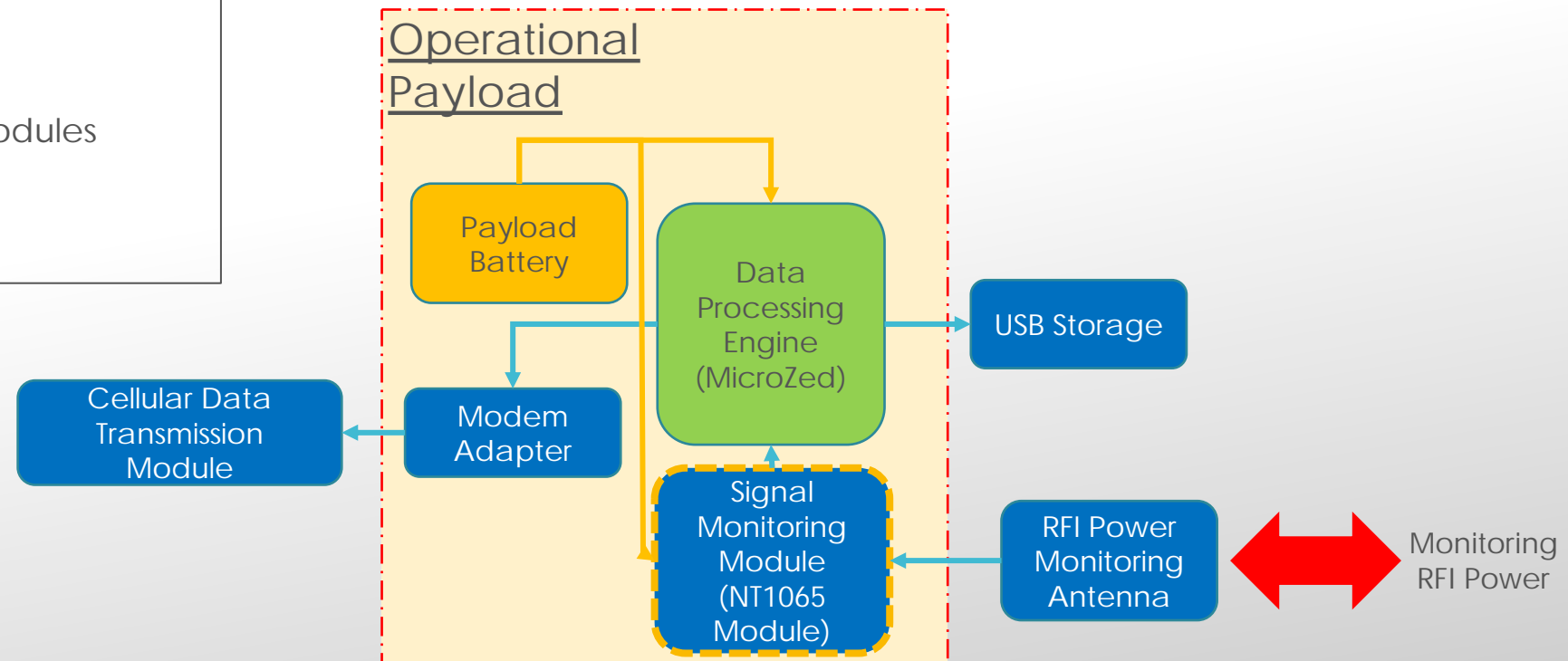
# PAYLOAD INTEGRATION DIAGRAM



# PAYLOAD FBD

Legend:

-  Data Transmission
-  Power Transmission
-  Data Processing
-  Receiver/Transmission Modules
-  Made by This Project
-  Given By Customer



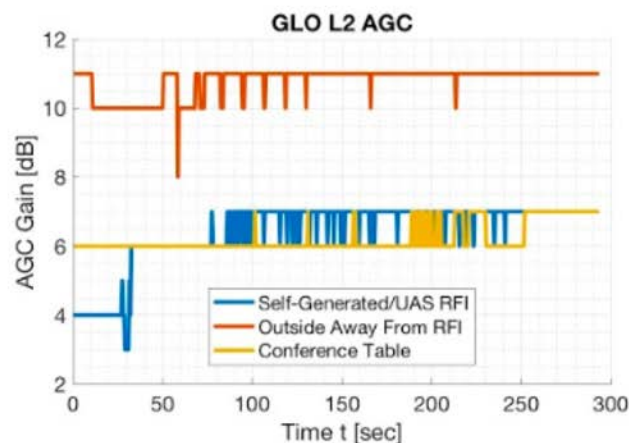
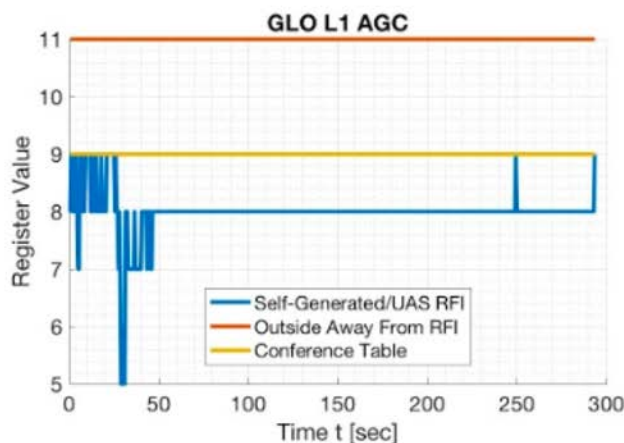
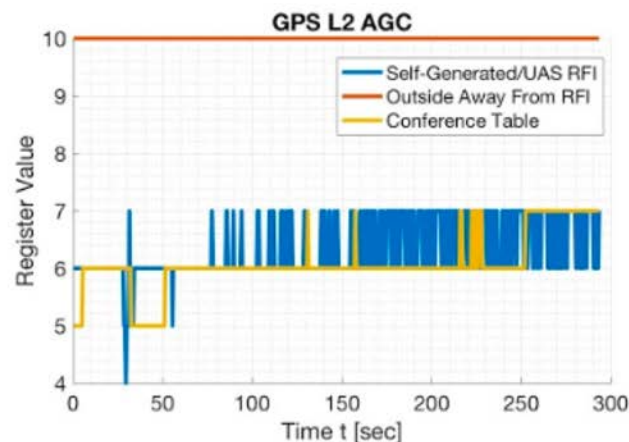
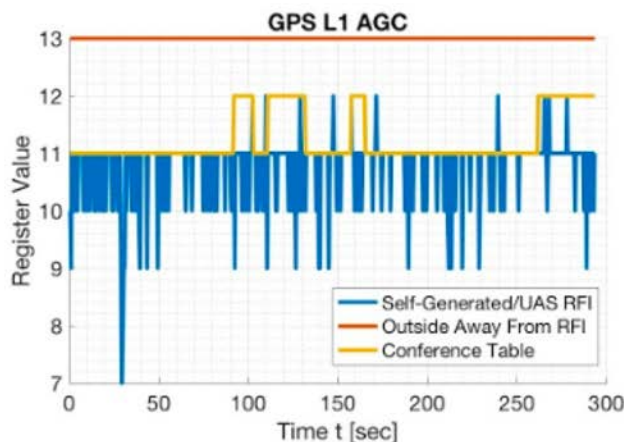




# PAYLOAD: AGC CHARACTERIZATION TESTS



## 5-minute Tests in Various Locations



GPS data collected for three scenarios:

- Lockheed Martin Conference table
- Open area away from RFI
- UAS generated RFI

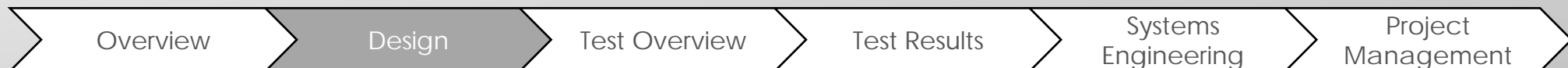
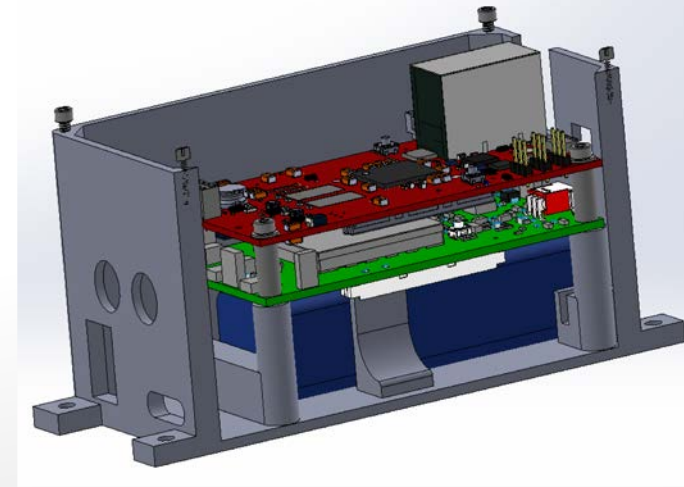
Purpose:

- Characterize AGC data
- Ensure data can be logged.
- Success is defining when GPS data cannot be trusted



# PROJECT DELIVERABLES

- Self-integrated payload containing customer provided microprocessor and signal filter
- Modified Flight Software allowing for GPS denied flight
- Fully Integrated UAS with payload and flight software

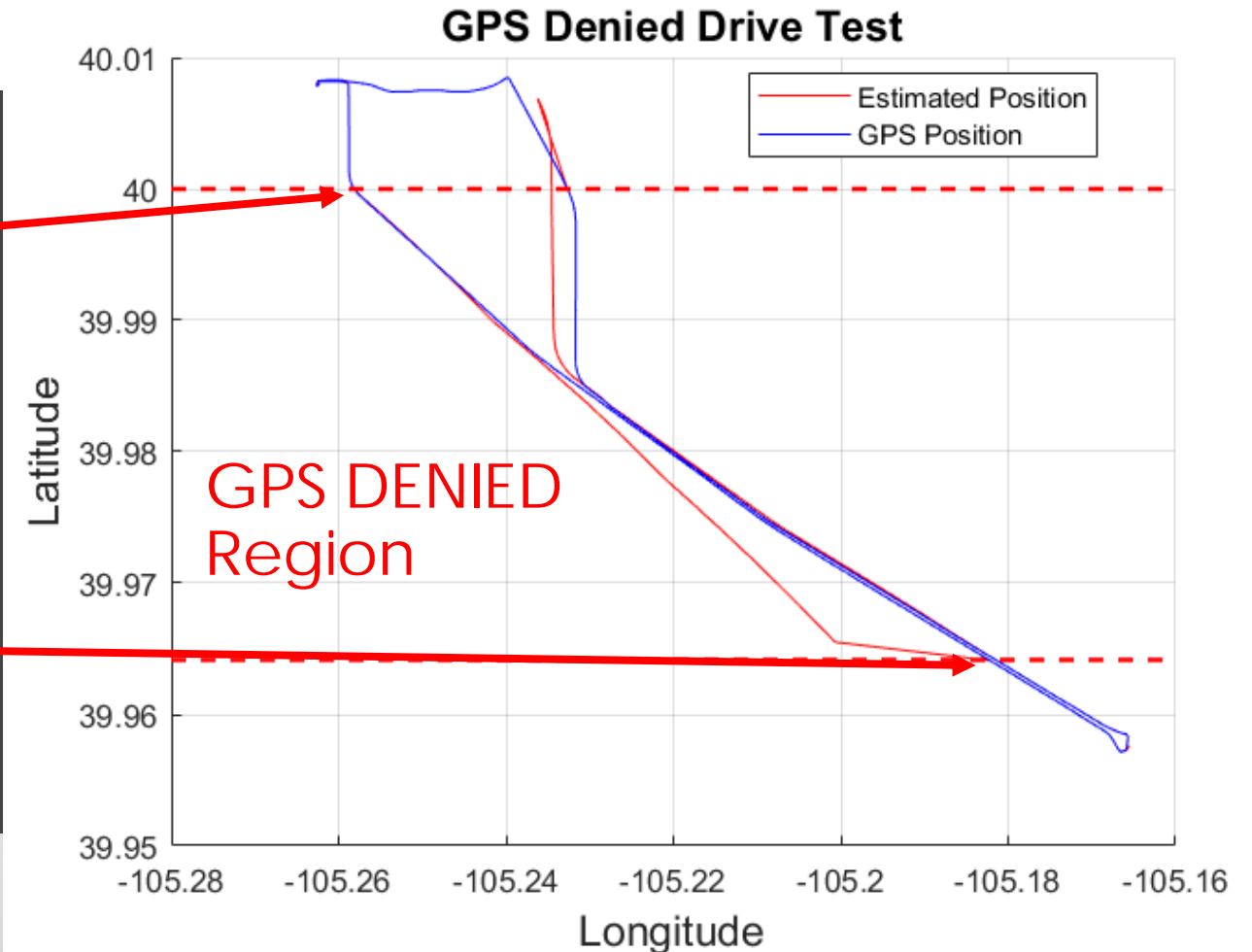




# SOFTWARE: GEOGRAPHIC FLIGHT MODE SWITCH



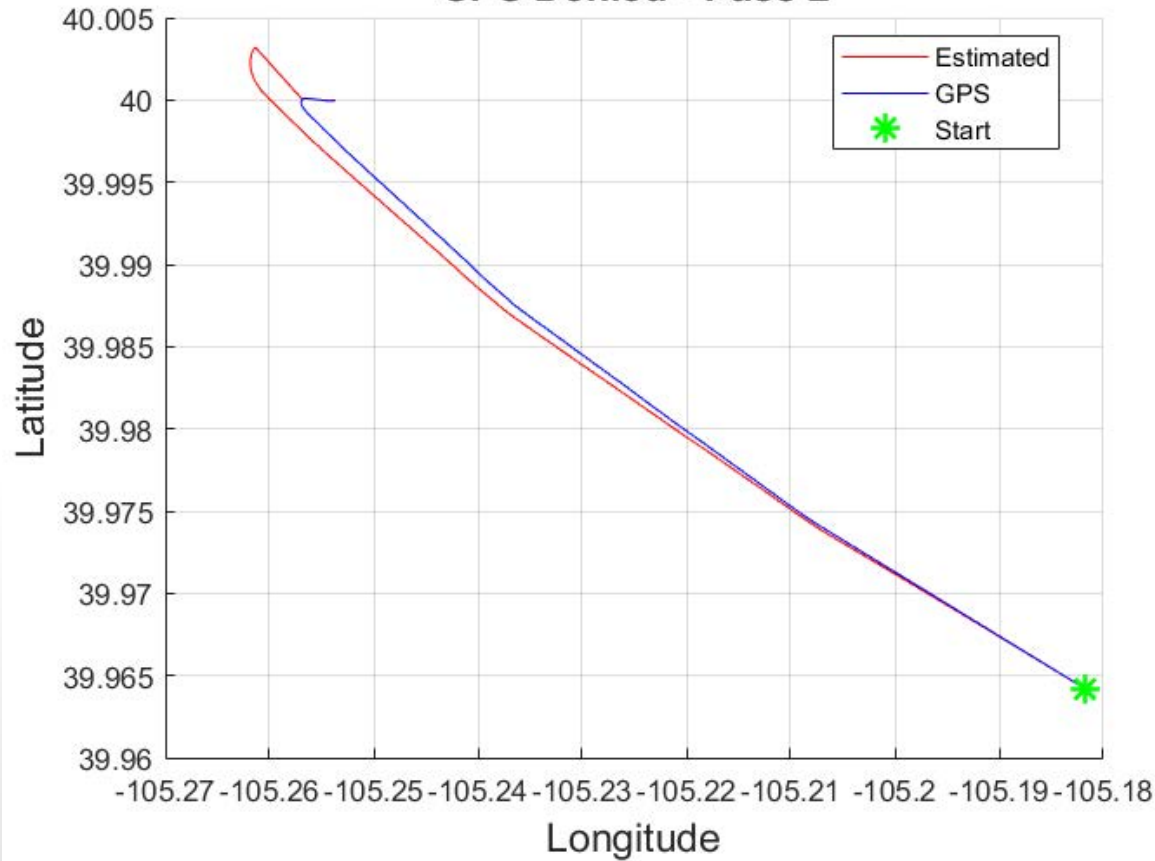
```
AidMode: 0 -> 1.  
EKF2 IMU2 has stopped aiding  
GPS DENIED  
AidMode: 0 -> 1.  
EKF2 IMU1 has stopped aiding  
GPS DENIED  
AidMode: 0 -> 1.  
EKF2 IMU0 has stopped aiding  
GPS DENIED  
0 1. - GPS Denied  
AidMode: 1 -> 0.  
EKF2 IMU2 is using GPS  
AidMode: 1 -> 0.  
EKF2 IMU1 is using GPS  
AidMode: 1 -> 0.  
EKF2 IMU0 is using GPS  
GPS ENABLED  
GPS ENABLED  
GPS ENABLED
```



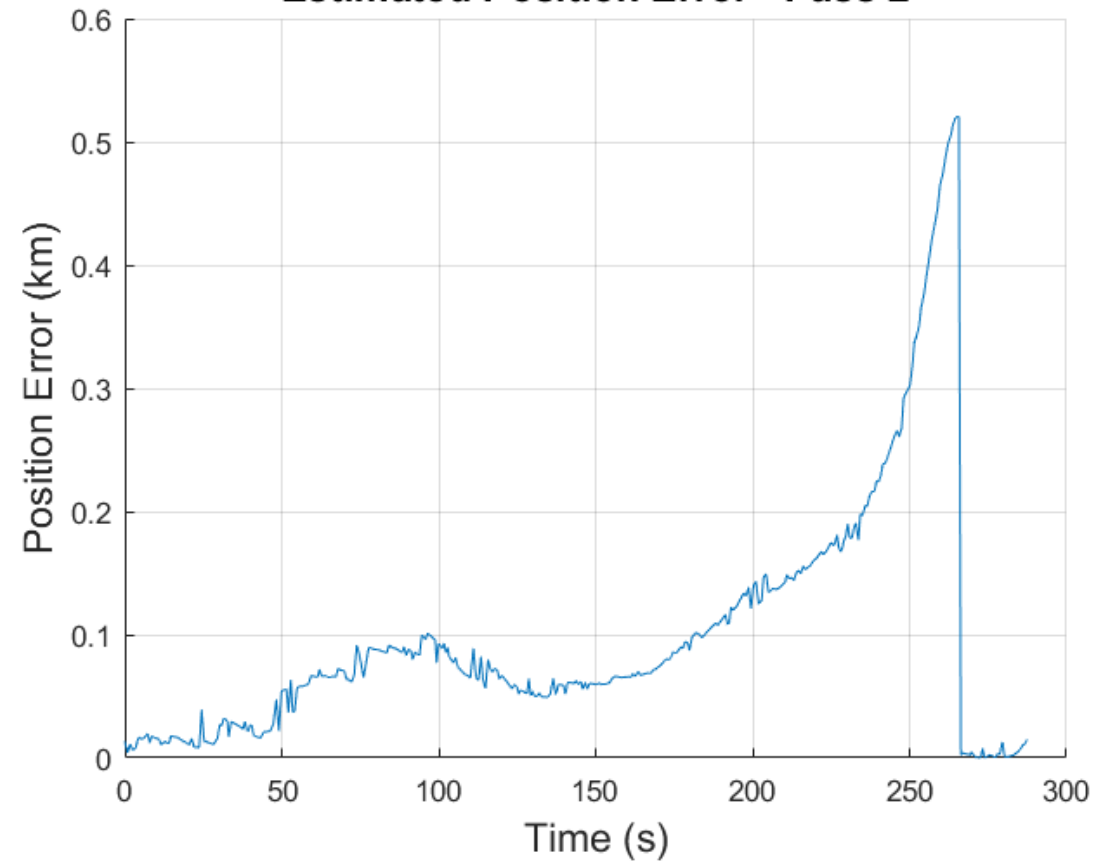


# GPS DENIED PERFORMANCE- DRIVING TEST

GPS Denied - Pass 2



Estimated Position Error - Pass 2





# SOFTWARE: GPS DENIED FIX

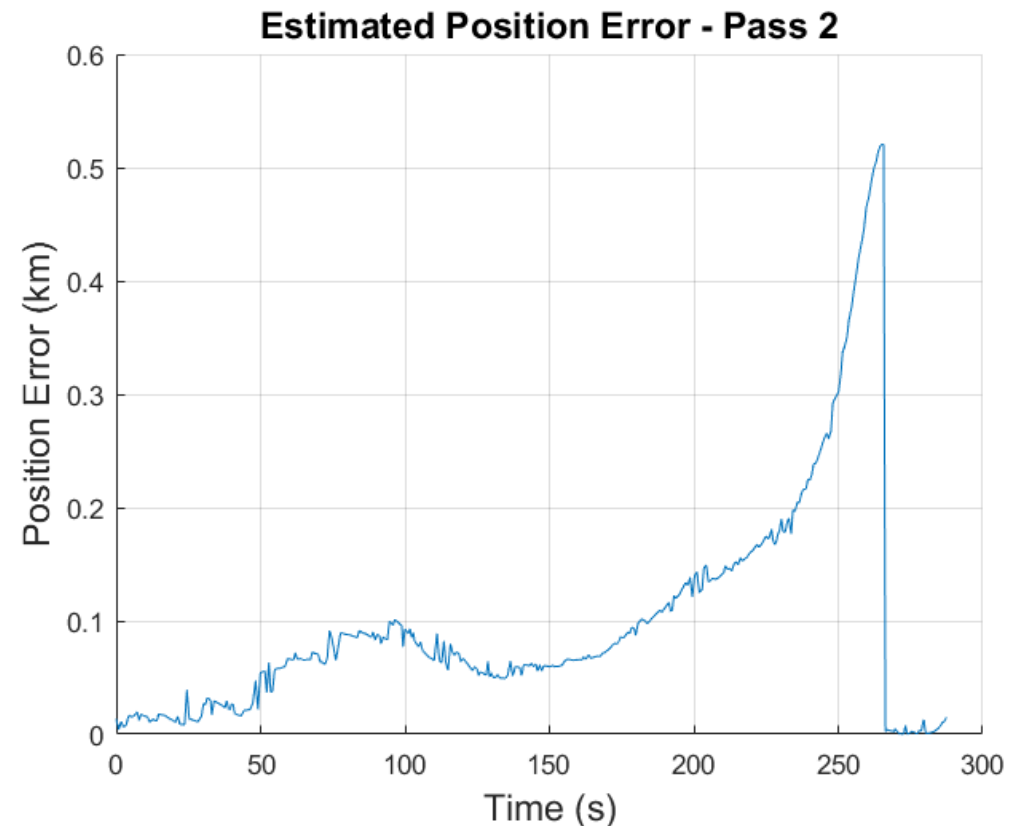
Driving test performed in 2 ways to verify GPS denial:

1. Physically removing GPS module
2. Software geofence

GPS denial tested for ~200 seconds

Results:

- Similar error for both tests
  - 150 meters NE error
- Consistent with expected  $t^2$  error

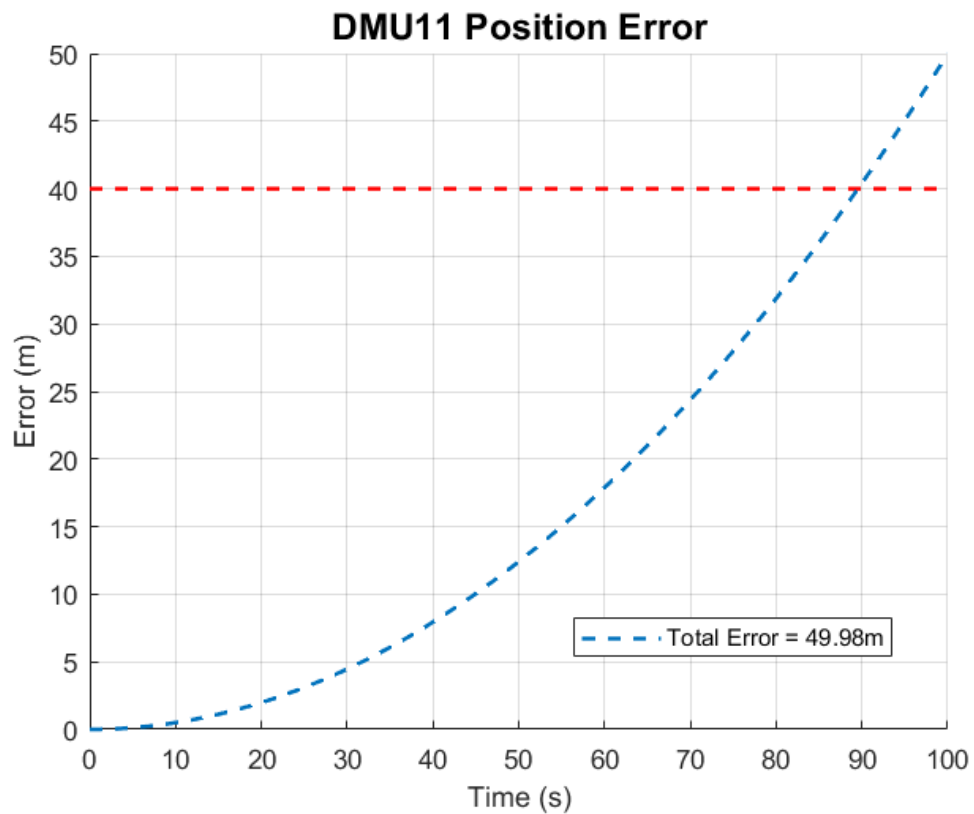




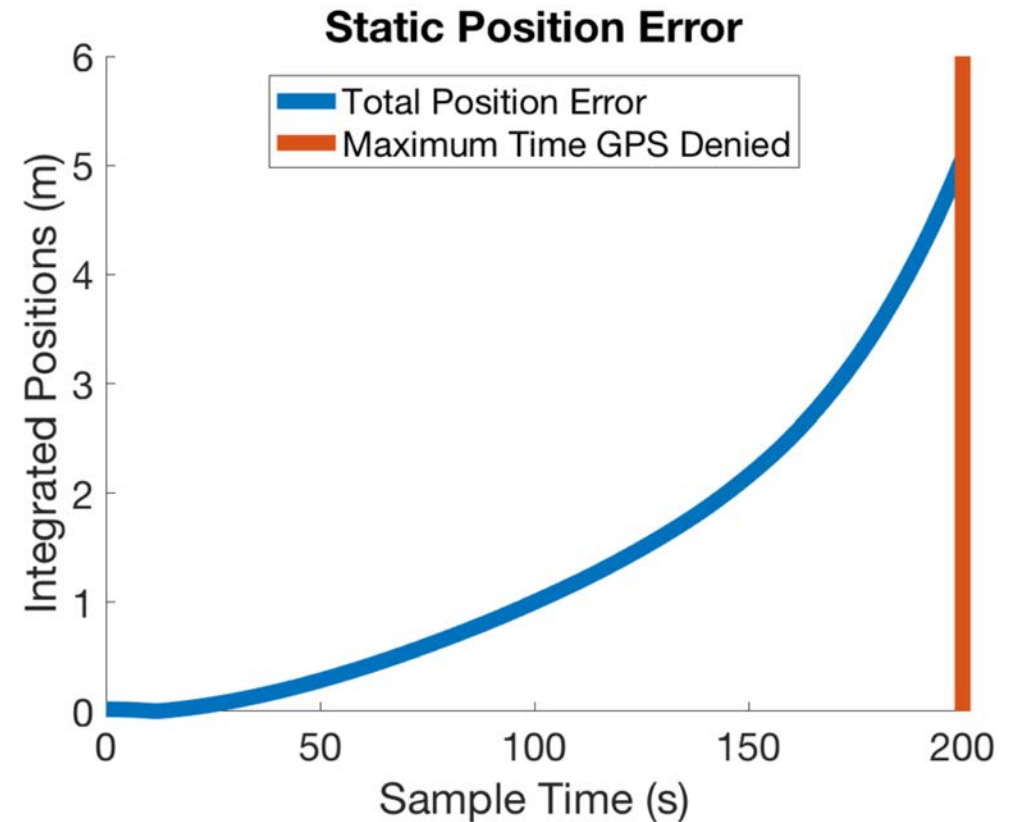


# GPS DENIED PERFORMANCE

## MODEL ESTIMATION



## INTEGRATED STATIC DATA





# PIXHAWK/MICROZED INTERFACE TESTS

Interfacing: 2-way serial communication between flight/micro controllers

Purpose: To provide flight controller with AGC data to enable flight mode switching, to receive and log position data, To verify requirements FR3, FR6, FR8, and FR9.

- Send GPS data reliability value to flight controller
- Receive and log position data from microcontroller

## Components

- GPS Antenna and Signal Filter
- Microcontroller and USB Drive
- Flight Controller





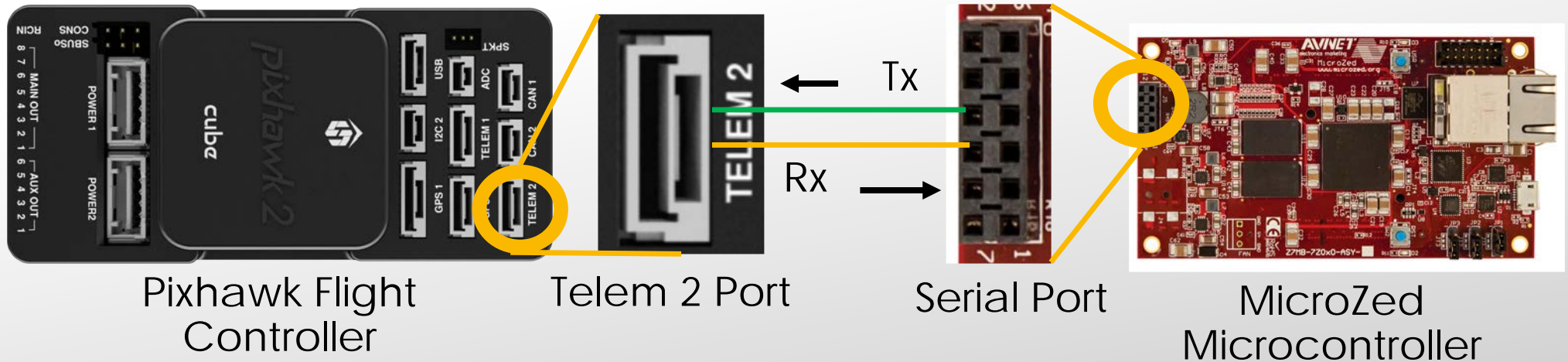
# PIXHAWK/MICROZED INTERFACE TESTS

Goal Have flight and microcontrollers communicate via a serial interface

Test Setup

Receives: GPS  
Reliability

UART, Baud  
115200,  
8-N-1



Receives: Time,  
lat/long, altitude

Result Successfully transmitted and received data on both devices



# UAS WIND PERFORMANCE

## Description

- 14 minute flight conducted in winds averaging 18.2 kph
- Maximum wind of 25.7 kph
- UAS performed fine in the air, though had difficulties with landing

## Functional Requirement Validation

FR 2: The UAS shall be capable of flying in 30 kph winds

**Partially  
Verified**

