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# Calibration of a magnetometer in combination with inertial sensors

Manon Kok, Linköping University, Sweden

Joint work with:

Thomas Schön, Uppsala University, Sweden  
Jeroen Hol, Xsens Technologies, the Netherlands  
Fredrik Gustafsson, Linköping University, Sweden  
Henk Luinge, Xsens Technologies, the Netherlands

March 11th 2015

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<http://users.isy.liu.se/en/rt/manko/>

## ■ Magnetometers



- Magnetometers
  - Accelerometers
  - Gyroscopes
- } Inertial sensors



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**Inertial sensors and magnetometers are widely used for orientation estimation.**

Magnetometers can be used in combination with inertial sensors to estimate the sensor's orientation provided that the magnetometer is properly calibrated.

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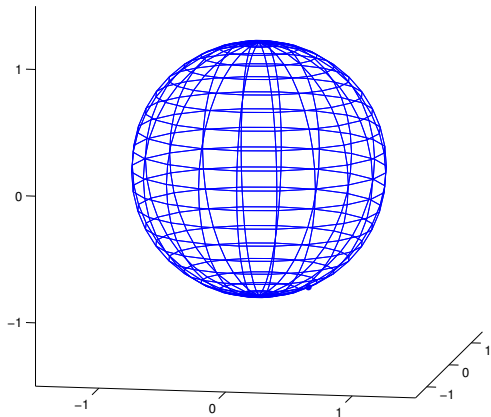
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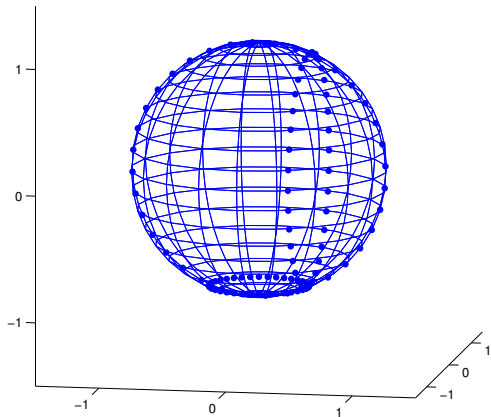
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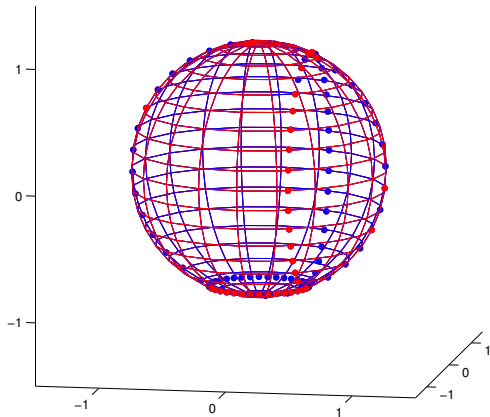
Rotate the IMU obtain a sphere  
of magnetometer data

$$y_{m,t} = R_t^{bn} m^n$$



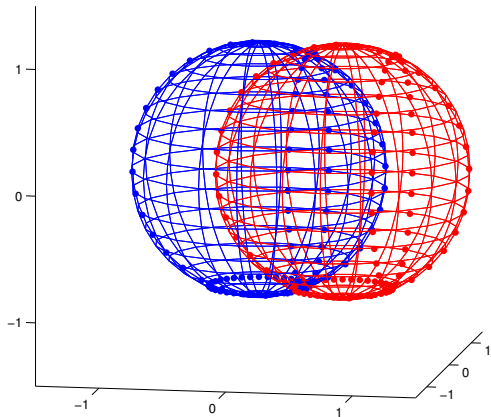
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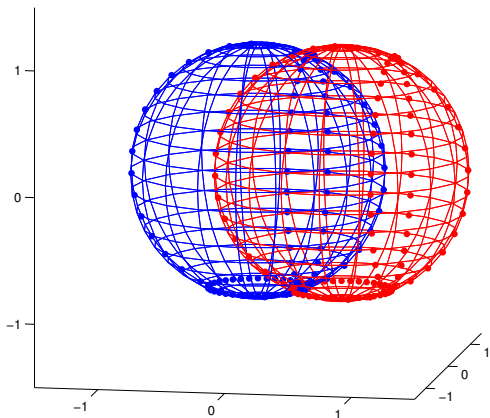
Uncalibrated magnetometer data will have an offset ( $o$ )

$$y_{m,t} = R_t^{bn} m^n + o$$



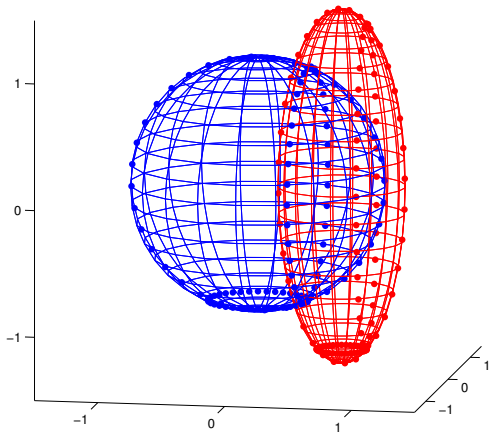
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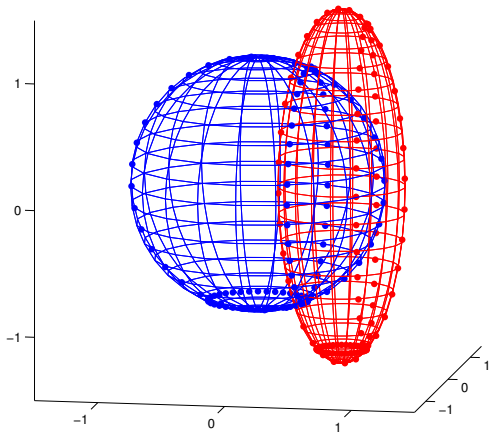
Uncalibrated magnetometer data will have an offset ( $o$ ) and it will be scaled ( $D$ )

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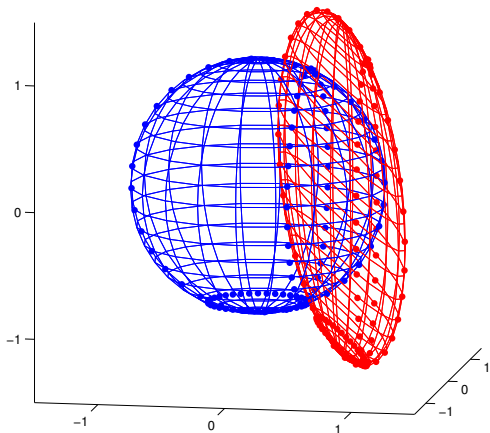
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Uncalibrated magnetometer data will have an offset ( $o$ ) and it will be scaled, skewed ( $D$ )

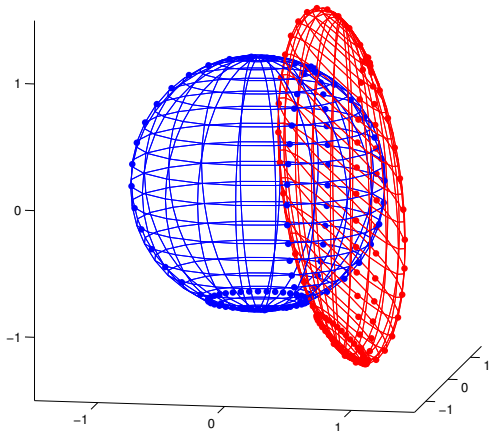
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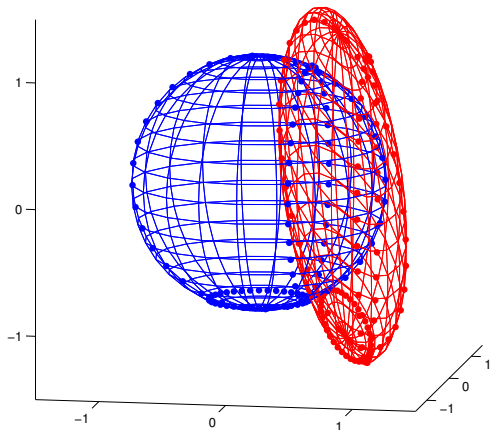
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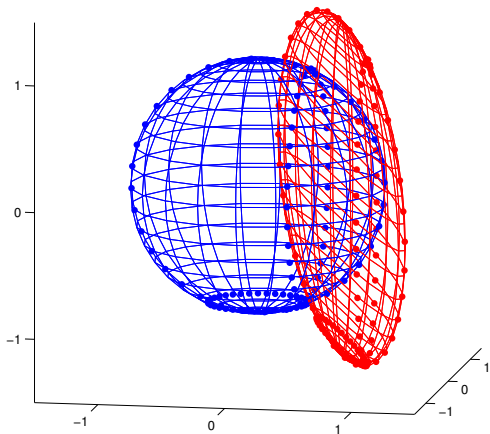
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- Derived a magnetometer calibration algorithm by solving a maximum likelihood problem.
- Validated the algorithm using experimental data showing that it works and leads to improved heading estimates even in the presence of large disturbances.
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State-space model with unknown states ( $x_t$ ) and parameters ( $\theta$ )

$$x_{t+1} = f_t(x_t, u_t, \theta) + B(x_t)v_t(\theta)$$

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Dynamic model:

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- the gyroscope measurements ( $y_{\omega,t}$ ) are used as input to the dynamic model.

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Measurement model:

- accelerometer measurement model



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- magnetometer measurement model
  - assumes that the magnetometer measurements can be calibrated using a calibration matrix  $D$  and offset vector  $o$

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where

$$y_{\omega,t} = \omega_t + b_{\omega} + e_{\omega,t}$$

$$e_{\omega,t} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_{\omega})$$

$$e_{a,t} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_a)$$

$$e_{m,t} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_m)$$

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where  $\hat{y}_{t|t-1}$  and  $S_t$  are the predicted measurement and the residual covariance from an extended Kalman filter.

The maximum likelihood problem is non-convex and needs proper initialization.

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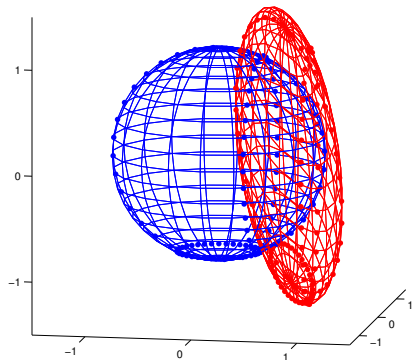
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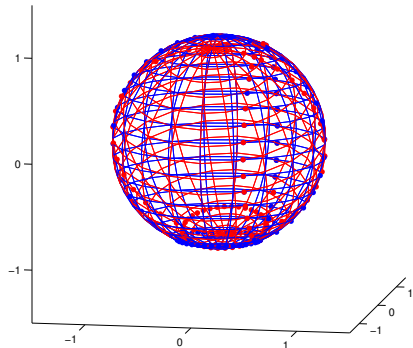
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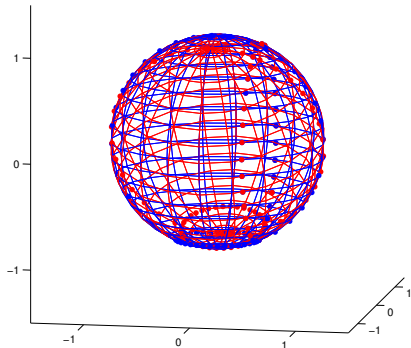
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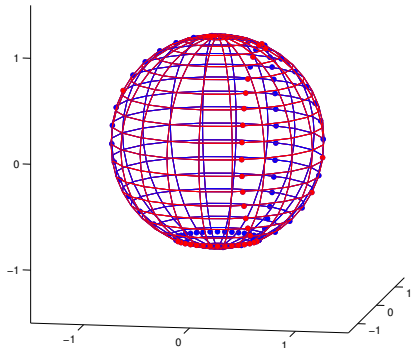
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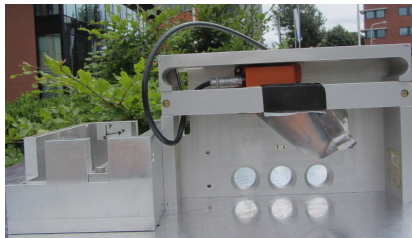
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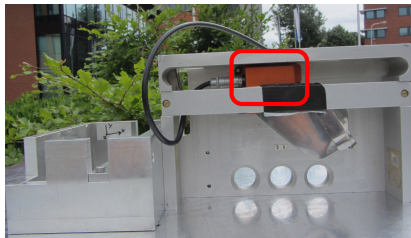
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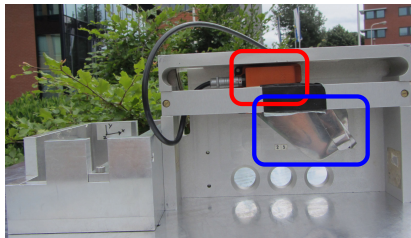
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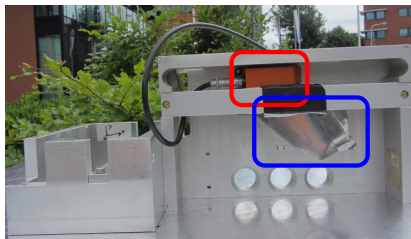
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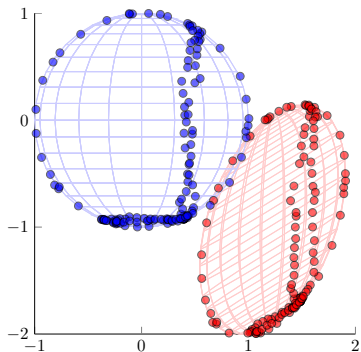
Magnetic disturbance

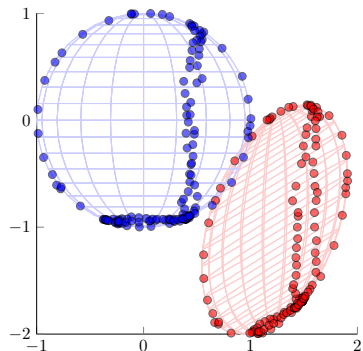


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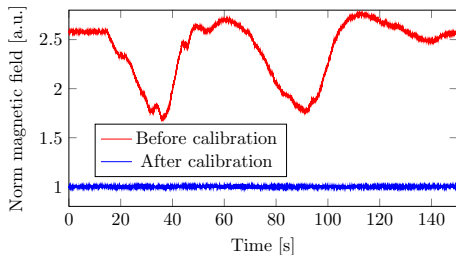
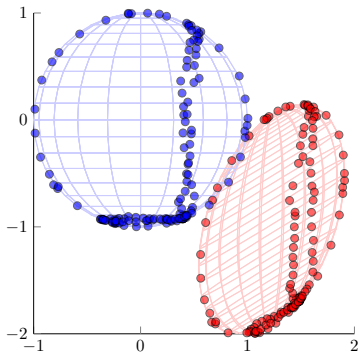
The IMU is placed in a block that can be put in orientations differing 90 degrees from each other.



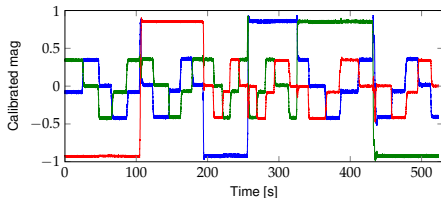
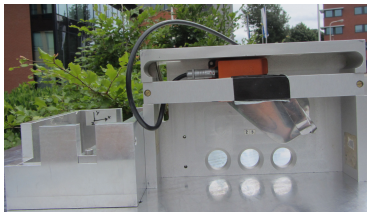


$$y_{m,t} = DR_t^{bn} m^n + o + e_{m,t}$$

$$\hat{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.74 & -0.14 & 0.02 \\ -0.12 & 0.68 & 0.01 \\ -0.04 & 0.43 & 1.00 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{o} = \begin{pmatrix} 1.37 \\ 1.22 \\ -0.94 \end{pmatrix}$$



The norm of the calibrated magnetometer measurements is around 1, i.e. the data is properly mapped to a unit sphere.



Heading error in degrees after calibration for  $90^\circ$  turns

<b>z up</b>	<b>z down</b>	<b>x up</b>	<b>x down</b>	<b>y down</b>
-0.23	-0.84	0.08	0.98	-0.31
0.21	-2.70	-0.02	1.66	0.35
-0.44	1.81	-0.82	-0.71	-0.07
0.42	2.00	0.36	-1.89	0.45

- Developed a magnetometer calibration algorithm which calibrates a magnetometer in combination with inertial sensors to obtain better orientation estimates.
- It corrects for
  - magnetometer sensor errors,
  - presence of magnetic material rigidly attached to the sensor,
  - misalignment between magnetometer and inertial sensor axes.
- We applied the algorithm to real data, showing that improved heading estimates are obtained.



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# An optimization-based approach to human body motion capture using inertial sensors

Manon Kok<sup>1</sup>, Jeroen D. Hol<sup>2</sup> and Thomas B. Schön<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Linköping University, Sweden

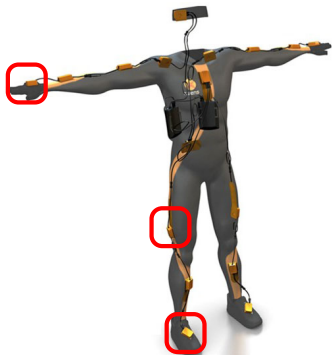
<sup>2</sup>Xsens Technologies, the Netherlands

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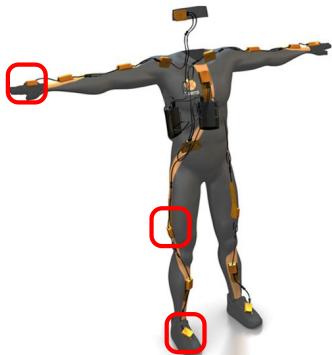






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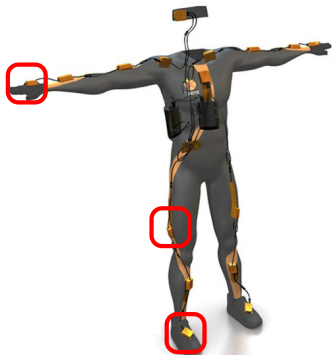
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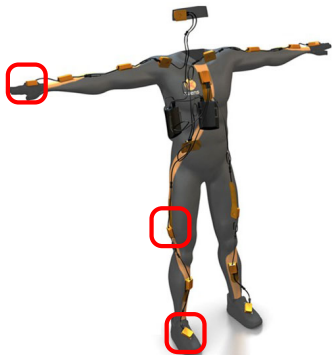
The magnetic field at the different sensor locations is typically different.



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Assuming that the body segments are connected to each other, the *relative* position and orientation of the body is observable (if the subject is not standing completely still).

We solve the motion capture problem by solving a *maximum a posteriori* (MAP) problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{z=\{x_{1:N}, \theta\}} & \underbrace{-\log p(x_1 | y_1) - \log p(\theta)}_{\text{initial state + prior}} \\ & \underbrace{-\sum_{t=2}^N \log p(x_t | x_{t-1}, \theta)}_{\text{dynamic model}} - \underbrace{\sum_{t=1}^N \log p(y_t | x_t, \theta)}_{\text{biomechanical/sensor model}} \\ \text{s.t.} & \underbrace{c_{\text{bio}}(z) = 0}_{\text{biomechanical model}} \end{aligned}$$

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$x_{1:N}$ : time-varying states such as the sensor positions, velocities and orientations, the body segment positions and orientations.

$\theta$ : constant model parameters such as sensor biases.

$y_{1:N}$ : inertial measurements.

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$c_{\text{bio}}(z)$ : constraints imposed by the biomechanical model.



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$$\begin{aligned} \min_{z=\{x_{1:N}, \theta\}} & \underbrace{-\log p(x_1 | y_1) - \log p(\theta)}_{\text{initial state + prior}} \\ & \underbrace{-\sum_{t=2}^N \log p(x_t | x_{t-1}, \theta)}_{\text{dynamic model}} - \underbrace{\sum_{t=1}^N \log p(y_t | x_t, \theta)}_{\text{biomechanical/sensor model}} \\ \text{s.t.} & \underbrace{c_{\text{bio}}(z) = 0}_{\text{biomechanical model}} \end{aligned}$$

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⇒ A constrained nonlinear least-squares problem.

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Solve this as a batch problem using standard solvers.



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The position and orientation of the sensors on the body is approximately constant.



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The positions and orientations of the sensors on the body are assumed to be known but it is possible to extend the algorithm to estimate these as well.

