



IW-NET final event

Ghent

12/10/2023

KU Leuven - IMP

Prof. Peter Slaets

Overview

- **Context**
- Sensor box design
- Software architecture
- Demonstration

Context

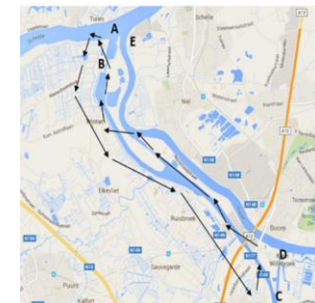
- A lot of autonomous vessels are emerging:



Context



- **Autoship H2020 project (2023):**
- Shore Control Center + Autonomous Navigation System (waypoints) + Situational awareness (camera)



<https://www.nt.nl/binnenvaart/2023/06/02/autonom-binnenvaartschip-legt-succesvolle-proefvaart-af-in-belgie/>

Context

- **KU Leuven IW-NET solution:**
 - - Sensor box (vs. integrated)
 - - Catamaran (vs. retrofit barge)
 - - Electric propulsion (vs. diesel)
 - - Over-actuated (vs. under-actuated)
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Overview

- Context
- **Sensor box design**
- Software architecture
- Results

Sensor box – version 1

Enclosed components:

- Cincoze DS-1100 embedded computer
- Velodyne VLP-16 LiDAR
- Septentrio AsteRx-U Marine GNSS
- Xsens MTi-G-710 IMU
- FLIR PTU-E46 Pan-tilt platform



Sensor box – version 2

- **Enclosed components:**

- RobotSense 32 Lidar
- AsteRx-i3 S Pro+ GNSS/INS
- QUARK-ELEC AIS receiver
- Annke I91BM camera
- 1.5U Rackmount Intel Coffee Lake Computer



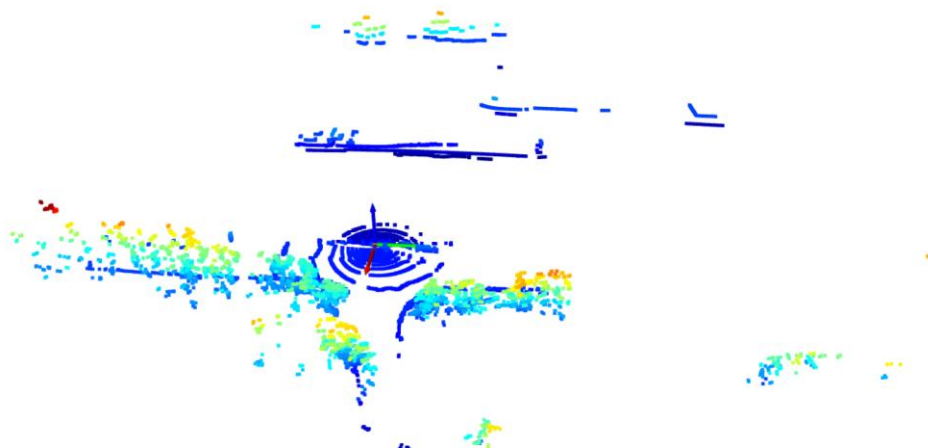
4G
Capable



Sensor box – version 2



Sensor box – version 2








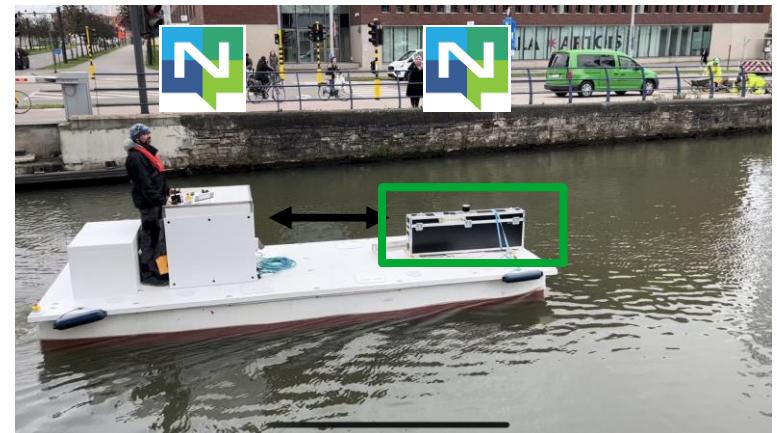
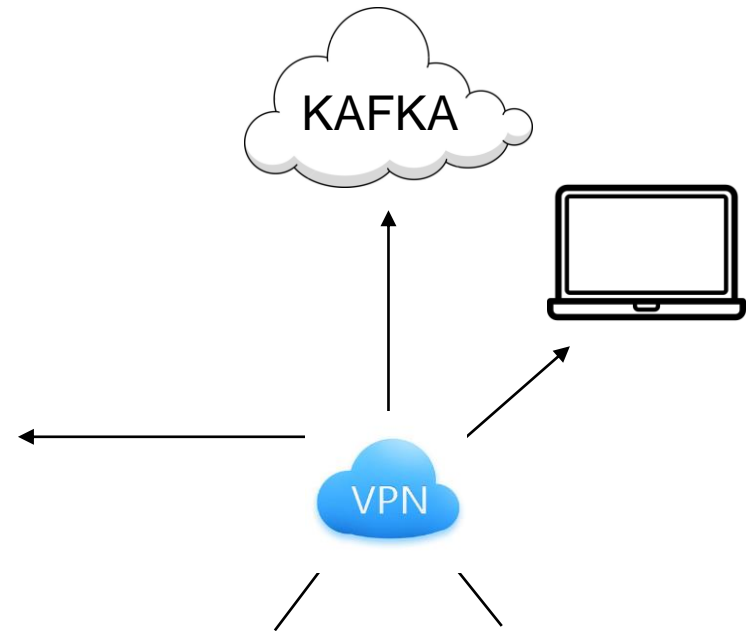
Overview

- Context
- Sensor box design
- **Software architecture**
- Results

Open communication architecture

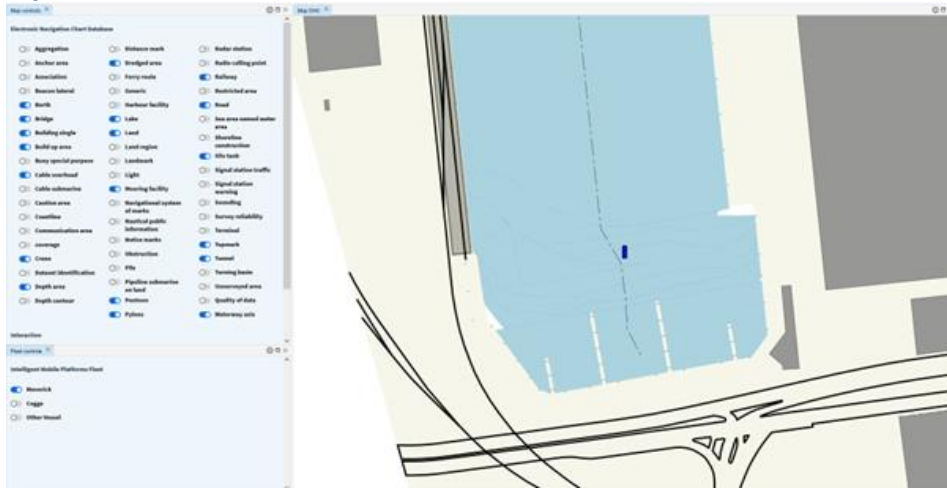
- **Distributed system**

- Publish-Subscribe system 
- External sensor box 
- VPN server 
- Shore control center 
- KAFKA cloud streaming 

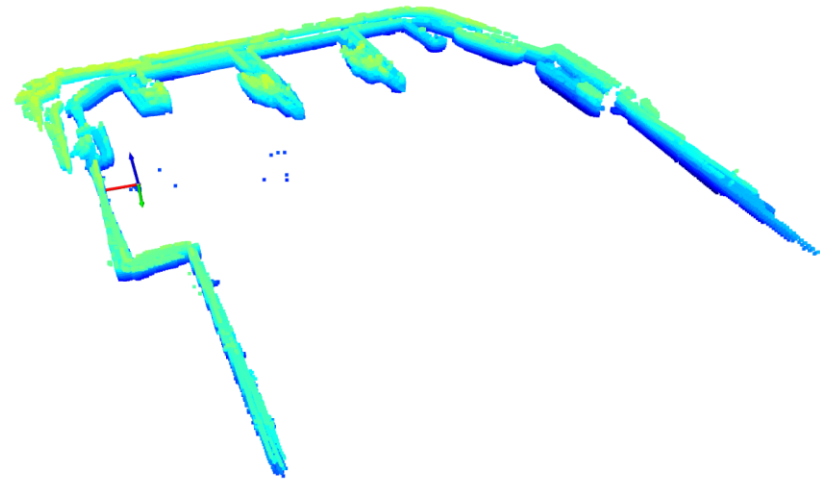


Custom designed visualization

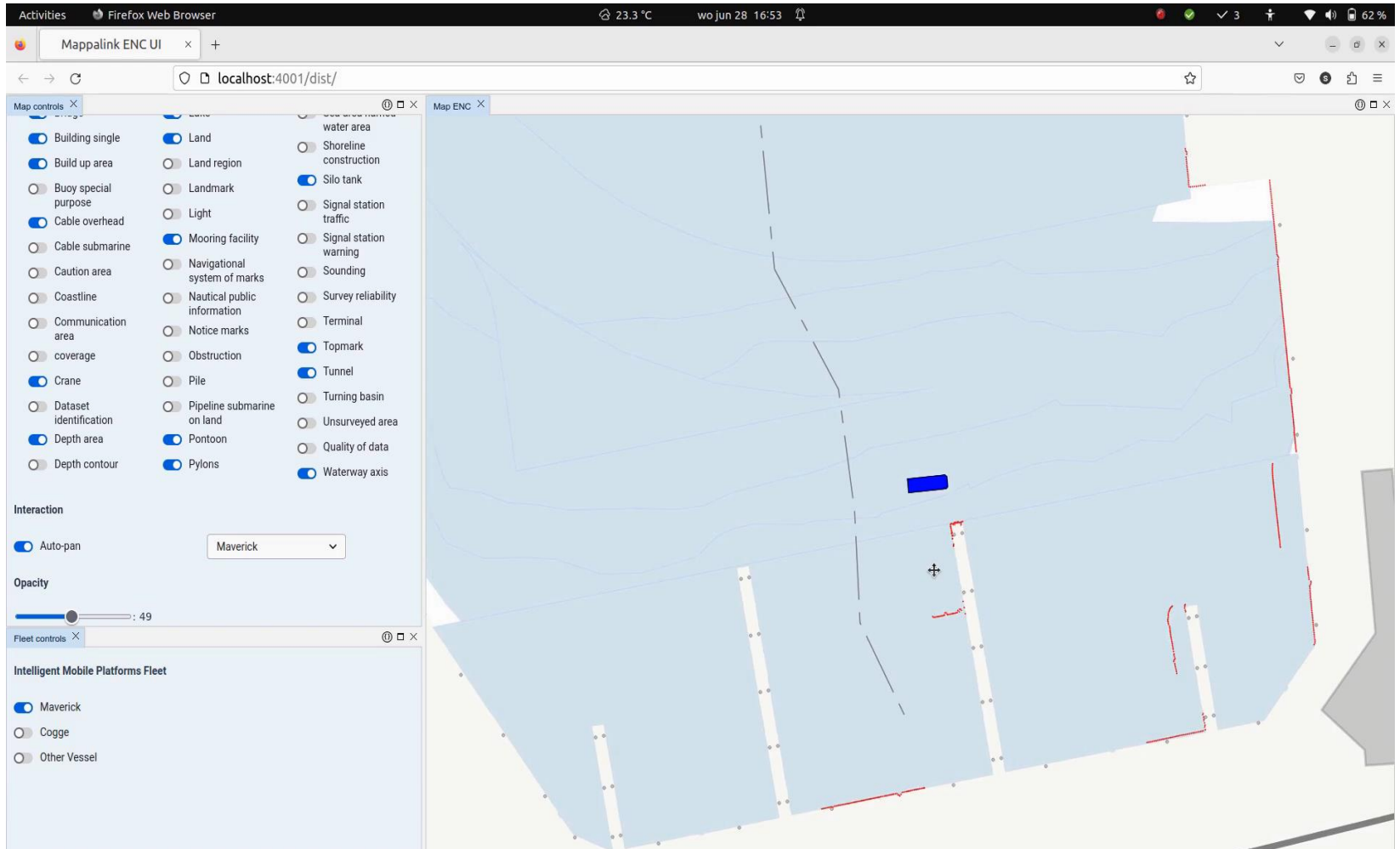
- Custom IENC map



- Real-time LiDAR visualization



Custom designed visualization

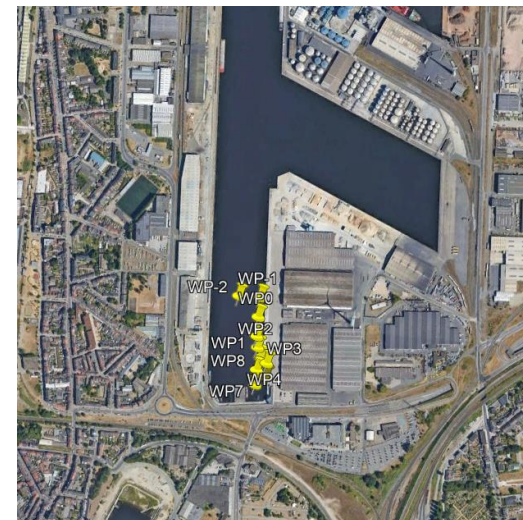
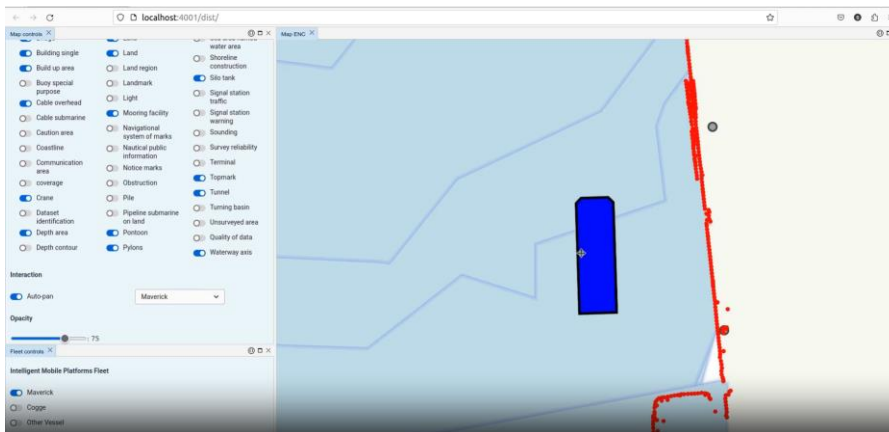


Overview

- Context
- Ship design
- Software architecture
- **Results**

Demonstration

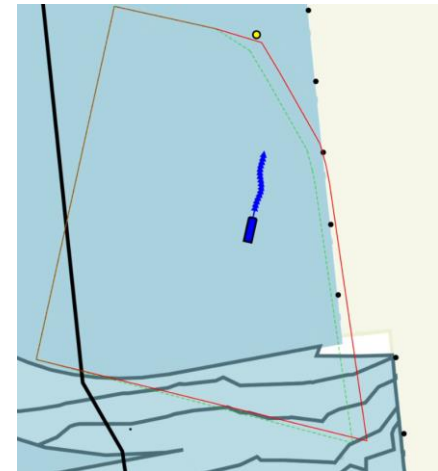
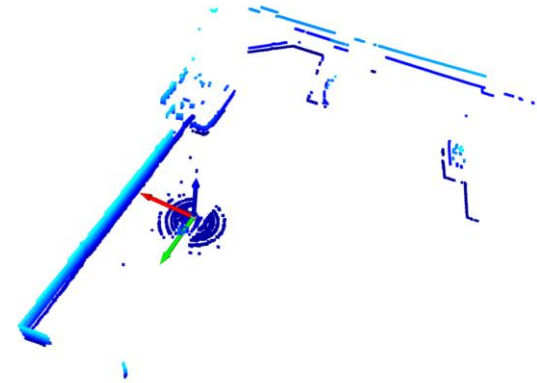
- Waypoint following (using GNSS)
- Lidar based navigation (in between waypoints)
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Research and Activities: Demonstration

IW-NET: Lidar based navigation

- **Requirements:**
 - LIDAR-based navigation through **unknown (static) environments** with limited dependence on GNSS
- **Implementation:**
 - Overactuated test vessel **Maverick**
- **Assumptions:**
 - Simplified operating conditions
 - ISV surroundings can be locally approximated as a convex polytope
- **Methodology:**
 - Deriving convex polytopes for attainable positions directly from segmented LIDAR data based on work of A. B. Martinsen^[29]



Research and Activities: Demonstration

IW-NET: Obstacle Avoidance

- **Model Predictive Control (MPC)**

$$\min_{x,u,S} J(x,u,S) = \|x - x_{\text{waypoint}}\| + \alpha \sum_{i=1}^N S_i + K_u \|u_\delta\|$$

- **g** includes model-related, multiple shooting and terminal constraints

$$\text{s.t. } \forall_i^i \in [1, \dots, N]$$

$$g(x, u) = 0$$

- **S_i** is slack on exceeding a spatial boundary to avoid infeasibility

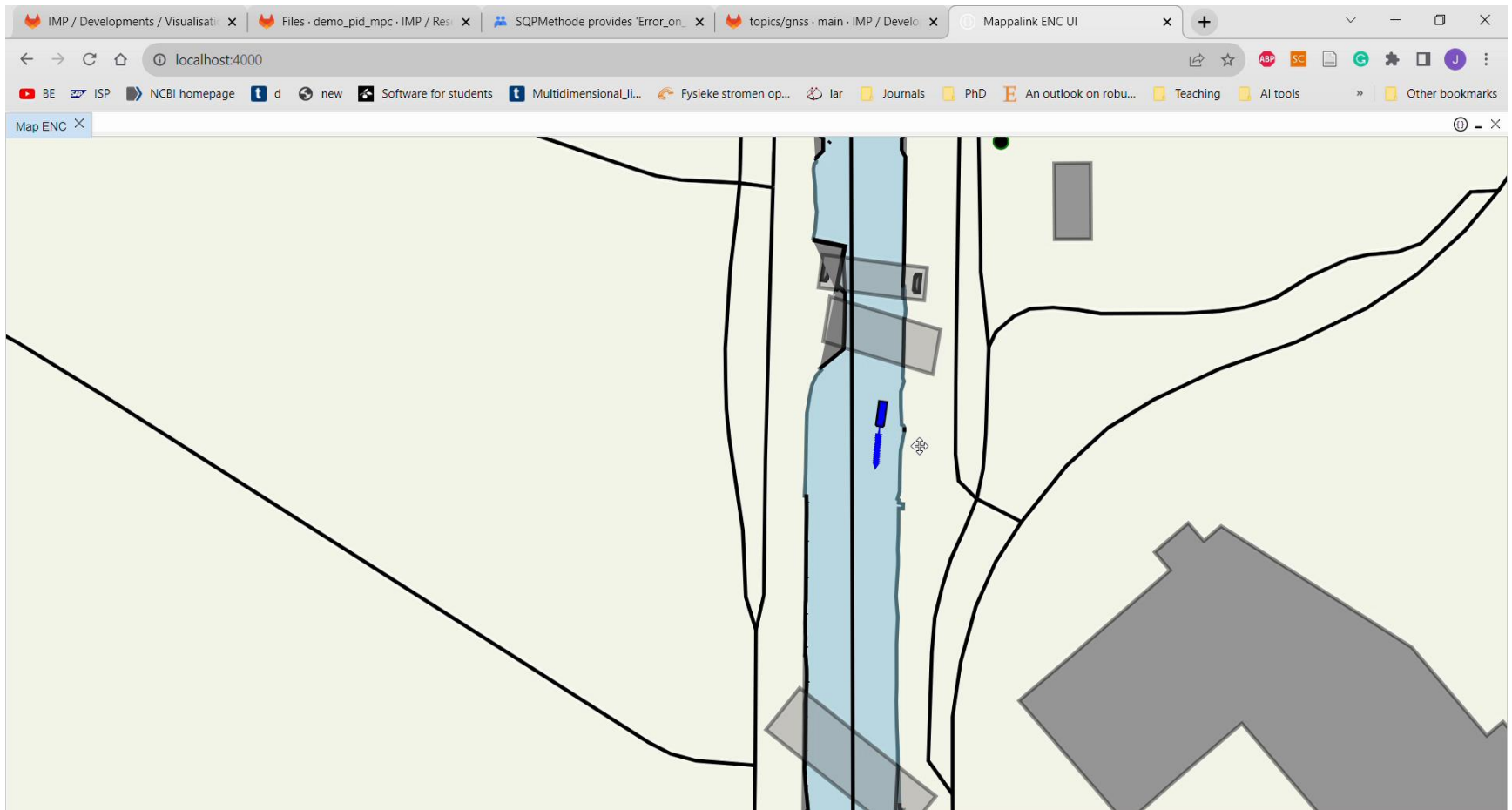
$$A p_i - b + 4 - S_i \leq 0$$

$$0 \leq S_i \leq 3$$

- **A** and **b** can change at a different frequency than of the MPC loop (ideally at the same rate)

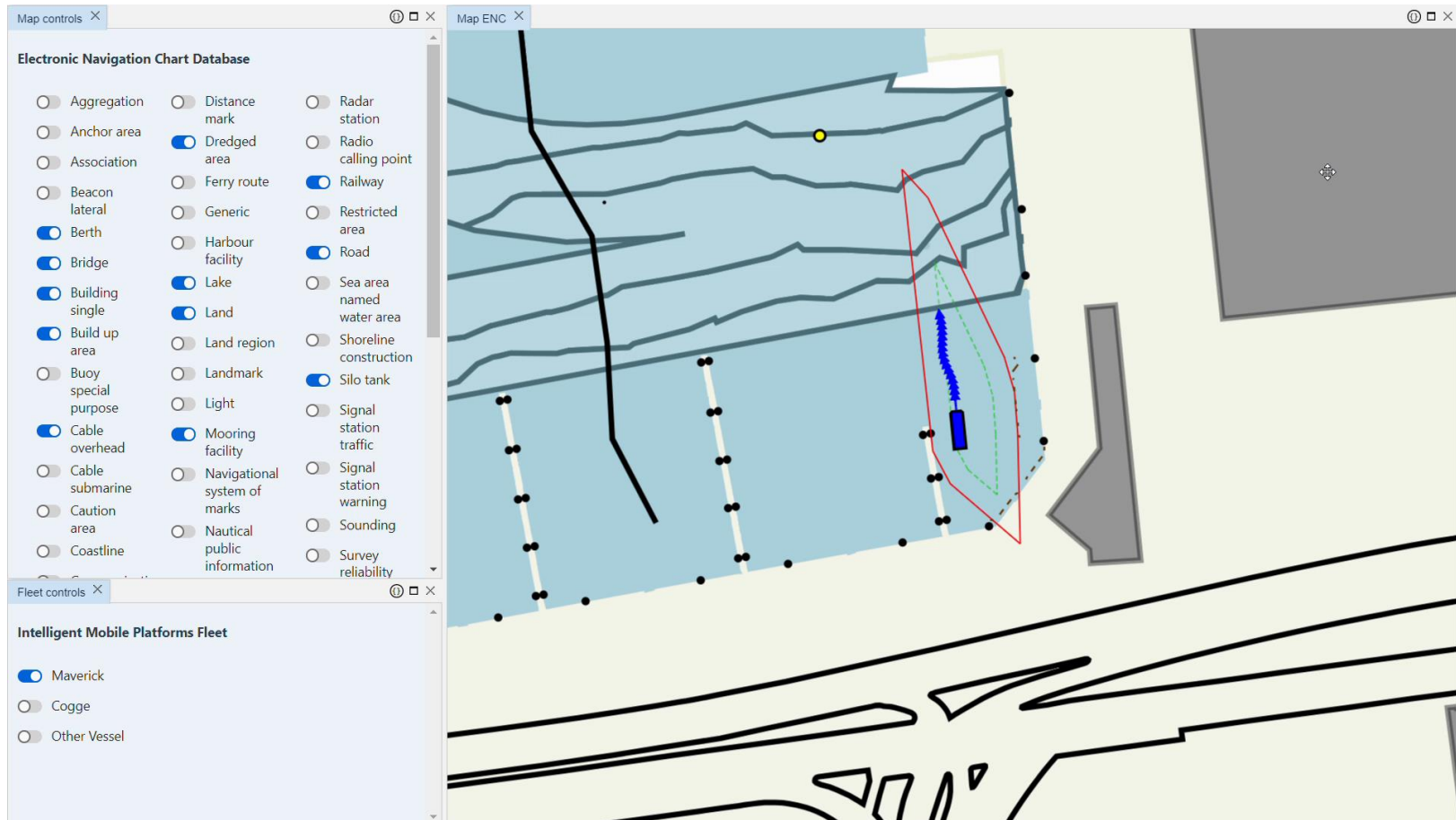
Research and Activities: Demonstration

IW-NET: Simulation



Research and Activities: Demonstration

IW-NET:



Team effort



Q&A

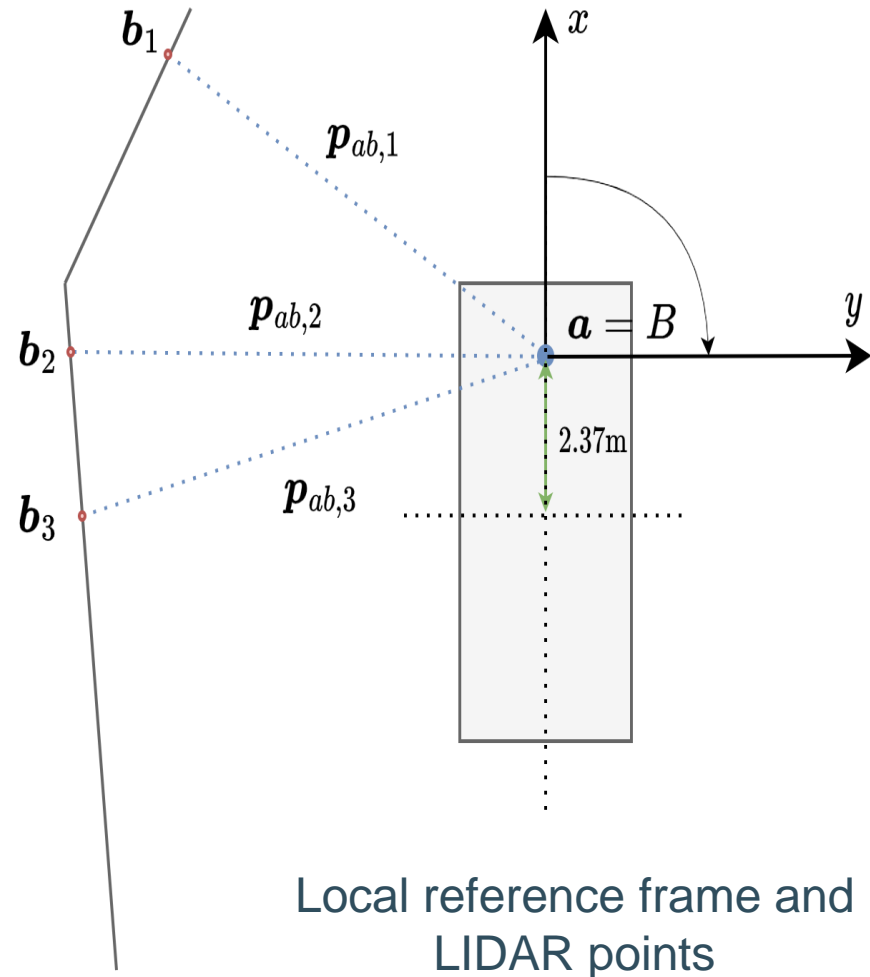


Research and Activities: Demonstration

IW-NET:

- Methodology

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,1})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,1}) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}\|_2} \\ \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,2})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,2}) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}\|_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,M})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,M}) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}\|_2} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{p}_i \leq \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,1})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mathbf{p}_{ab,1}}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,1}) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}\|_2} \\ \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,2})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mathbf{p}_{ab,2}}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,2}) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}\|_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,M})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mathbf{p}_{ab,M}}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,M}) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}\|_2} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{b}}$$



Research and Activities: Demonstration

IW-NET:

- Methodology

- $$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,1})^\top \Sigma}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,1}) \Sigma\|_2} \\ \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,2})^\top \Sigma}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,2}) \Sigma\|_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,M})^\top \Sigma}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,M}) \Sigma\|_2} \end{bmatrix}}_A \mathbf{p}_i \leq \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,1})^\top \Sigma \mathbf{p}_{ab,1}}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,1}) \Sigma\|_2} \\ \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,2})^\top \Sigma \mathbf{p}_{ab,2}}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,2}) \Sigma\|_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{ab,M})^\top \Sigma \mathbf{p}_{ab,M}}{\|(\mathbf{p}_{ab,M}) \Sigma\|_2} \end{bmatrix}}_b$$

- M is the number of LIDAR points to consider

$$i = 1, \dots, N$$

N is the MPC horizon

$$\mathbf{p}_1 = \mathbf{a} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad x_1 = y_1 = 0$$