

Satellite navigation

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A **satellite navigation** or **satnav** system is a system that uses satellites to provide autonomous geospatial positioning. It allows small electronic receivers to determine their location (longitude, latitude, and altitude/elevation) to high precision (within a few metres) using time signals transmitted along a line of sight by radio from satellites. The system can be used for navigation or for tracking the position of something fitted with a receiver (satellite tracking). The signals also allow the electronic receiver to calculate the current local time to high precision, which allows time synchronisation. Satnav systems operate independently of any telephonic or internet reception, though these technologies can enhance the usefulness of the positioning information generated.

A satellite navigation system with global coverage may be termed a **global navigation satellite system (GNSS)**. As of December 2016 only the United States NAVSTAR Global Positioning System (GPS), the Russian GLONASS and the EUs Galileo are global operational GNSSs. China is in the process of expanding its regional BeiDou Navigation Satellite System into the global Compass navigation system by 2020.^[1] The European Union's Galileo is a global GNSS scheduled to be fully operational by 2020.^[2] India currently has satellite-based augmentation system, GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN), which enhances the accuracy of NAVSTAR GPS and GLONASS positions. India has already launched the IRNSS, with an operational name NAVIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation), a constellation of satellites for navigation in and around the Indian Subcontinent. It is expected to be fully operational by June 2016. France and Japan are in the process of developing regional navigation systems as well.

Global coverage for each system is generally achieved by a satellite constellation of 20–30 medium Earth orbit (MEO) satellites spread between several orbital planes. The actual systems vary, but use orbital inclinations of $>50^\circ$ and orbital periods of roughly twelve hours (at an altitude of about 20,000 kilometres or 12,000 miles).

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Classification

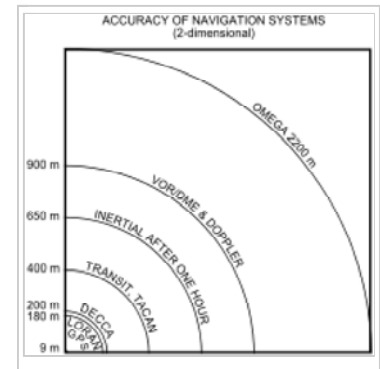
Satellite navigation systems that provide enhanced accuracy and integrity monitoring usable for civil navigation are classified as follows.^[3]

- **GNSS-1** is the first generation system and is the combination of existing satellite navigation systems (GPS and GLONASS), with Satellite Based Augmentation Systems (SBAS) or Ground Based Augmentation Systems (GBAS). In the United States, the satellite based component is the Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS), in Europe it is the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS), and in Japan it is the Multi-Functional Satellite Augmentation System (MSAS). Ground based augmentation is provided by systems like the Local Area Augmentation System (LAAS).
- **GNSS-2** is the second generation of systems that independently provides a full civilian satellite navigation system, exemplified by the European Galileo positioning system. These systems will provide the accuracy and integrity monitoring necessary for civil navigation; including aircraft. This system consists of L1 and L2 frequencies (in the L band of the radio spectrum) for civil use and L5 for system integrity. Development is also in progress to provide GPS with civil use L2 and L5 frequencies, making it a GNSS-2 system.¹
- Core Satellite navigation systems, currently GPS (United States), GLONASS (Russian Federation), Galileo (European Union) and Compass (China).
- Global Satellite Based Augmentation Systems (SBAS) such as Omnistar and StarFire.
- Regional SBAS including WAAS (US), EGNOS (EU), MSAS (Japan) and GAGAN (India).
- Regional Satellite Navigation Systems such as China's Beidou, India's NAVIC, and Japan's proposed QZSS.

- Continental scale Ground Based Augmentation Systems (GBAS) for example the Australian GRAS and the US Department of Transportation National Differential GPS (DGPS) service.
- Regional scale GBAS such as CORS networks.
- Local GBAS typified by a single GPS reference station operating Real Time Kinematic (RTK) corrections.

History and theory

Early predecessors were the ground based DECCA, LORAN, GEE and Omega radio navigation systems, which used terrestrial longwave radio transmitters instead of satellites. These positioning systems broadcast a radio pulse from a known "master" location, followed by a pulse repeated from a number of "slave" stations. The delay between the reception of the master signal and the slave signals allowed the receiver to deduce the distance to each of the slaves, providing a fix.



The first satellite navigation system was Transit, a system deployed by the US military in the 1960s. Transit's operation was based on the Doppler effect: the satellites travelled on well-known paths and broadcast their signals on a well-known frequency. The received frequency will differ slightly from the broadcast frequency because of the movement of the satellite with respect to the receiver. By monitoring this frequency shift over a short time interval, the receiver can determine its location to one side or the other of the satellite, and several such measurements combined with a precise knowledge of the satellite's orbit can fix a particular position.

Part of an orbiting satellite's broadcast included its precise orbital data. In order to ensure accuracy, the US Naval Observatory (USNO) continuously observed the precise orbits of these satellites. As a satellite's orbit deviated, the USNO would send the updated information to the satellite. Subsequent broadcasts from an updated satellite would contain the most recent accurate information about its orbit.

Modern systems are more direct. The satellite broadcasts a signal that contains orbital data (from which the position of the satellite can be calculated) and the precise time the signal was transmitted. The orbital data is transmitted in a data message that is superimposed on a code that serves as a timing reference. The satellite uses an atomic clock to maintain synchronization of all the satellites in the constellation. The receiver compares the time of broadcast encoded in the transmission of three (at sea level) or four different satellites, thereby measuring the time-of-flight to each satellite. Several such measurements can be made at the same time to different satellites, allowing a continual fix to be generated in real time using an adapted version of trilateration: see GNSS positioning calculation for details.

Each distance measurement, regardless of the system being used, places the receiver on a spherical shell at the measured distance from the broadcaster. By taking several such measurements and then looking for a point where they meet, a fix is generated. However, in the case of fast-moving

receivers, the position of the signal moves as signals are received from several satellites. In addition, the radio signals slow slightly as they pass through the ionosphere, and this slowing varies with the receiver's angle to the satellite, because that changes the distance through the ionosphere. The basic computation thus attempts to find the shortest directed line tangent to four oblate spherical shells centred on four satellites. Satellite navigation receivers reduce errors by using combinations of signals from multiple satellites and multiple correlators, and then using techniques such as Kalman filtering to combine the noisy, partial, and constantly changing data into a single estimate for position, time, and velocity.

Civil and military uses

The original motivation for satellite navigation was for military applications. Satellite navigation allows the precision in the delivery of weapons to targets, greatly increasing their lethality whilst reducing inadvertent casualties from mis-directed weapons. (See Guided bomb). Satellite navigation also allows forces to be directed and to locate themselves more easily, reducing the fog of war.

The ability to supply satellite navigation signals is also the ability to deny their availability. The operator of a satellite navigation system potentially has the ability to degrade or eliminate satellite navigation services over any territory it desires.



Satellite navigation using a laptop and a GPS receiver

Global satellite navigation systems

Operational

GPS

The United States' Global Positioning System (GPS) consists of up to 32 medium Earth orbit satellites in six different orbital planes, with the exact number of satellites varying as older satellites are retired and replaced. Operational since 1978 and globally available since 1994, GPS is currently the world's most utilized satellite navigation system.

GLONASS

The formerly Soviet, and now Russian, *Global'naya Navigatsionnaya Sputnikovaya Sistema* (Russian: ГЛОБАЛЬНАЯ НАВИГАЦИОННАЯ СПУТНИКОВАЯ СИСТЕМА, GLObal NAVigation Satellite System), or GLONASS, is a space-based satellite navigation system that provides a civilian radionavigation-satellite service and is also used by the Russian Aerospace Defence Forces. The full orbital constellation of 24 GLONASS satellites enables full global coverage.

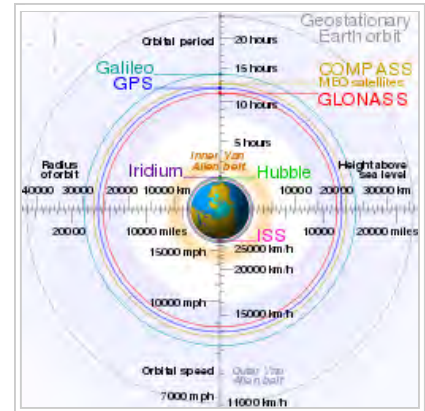
Galileo

The European Union and European Space Agency agreed in March 2002 to introduce their own alternative to GPS, called the Galileo positioning system. Galileo became operational on 15 December 2016.^[4] At an estimated cost of EUR 3.0 billion,^[5] the system of 30 MEO satellites was originally scheduled to be operational in 2010. The original year to become operational was 2014.^[6] The first experimental satellite was launched on 28 December 2005.^[7] Galileo is expected to be compatible with the modernized GPS system. The receivers will be able to combine the signals from both Galileo and GPS satellites to greatly increase the accuracy. Galileo is expected to be in full service in 2020 and at a substantially higher cost.^[2] The main modulation used in Galileo Open Service signal is the Composite Binary Offset Carrier (CBOC) modulation.

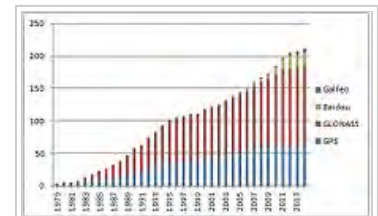
In Development

BeiDou

China has indicated they plan to complete the entire second generation Beidou Navigation Satellite System (BDS or BeiDou-2, formerly known as COMPASS), by expanding current regional (Asia-Pacific) service into global coverage by 2020.^[1] The BeiDou-2 system is proposed to consist of 30 MEO satellites and five geostationary satellites. A 16-satellite regional version (covering Asia and Pacific area) was completed by December 2012.



Comparison of geostationary, **GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, Compass (MEO)**, International Space Station, Hubble Space Telescope and Iridium constellation orbits, with the Van Allen radiation belts and the Earth to scale.^[a] The Moon's orbit is around 9 times larger than geostationary orbit.^[b] (In the SVG file, (<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wiki> hover over an orbit or its label to highlight it; click to load its article.)



launched GNSS satellites 1978 to 2014

Comparison of systems

System	GPS	GLONASS	BeiDou	Galileo	NAVIC
Owner	United States	Russian Federation	China	European Union	India
Coding	CDMA	FDMA	CDMA	CDMA	CDMA
Orbital altitude	20,180 km (12,540 mi)	19,130 km (11,890 mi)	21,150 km (13,140 mi)	23,222 km (14,429 mi)	36,000 km (22,000 mi)
Period	11.97 h (11 h 58 min)	11.26 h (11 h 16 min)	12.63 h (12 h 38 min)	14.08 h (14 h 5 min)	
Revolutions per sidereal day	2	17/8	17/9	17/10	
Number of satellites	32 (at least 24 by design) ^[8]	28 (at least 24 by design) including: ^[9] 24 operational 2 under check by the satellite prime contractor 2 in flight tests phase	5 geostationary orbit (GEO) satellites, 30 medium Earth orbit (MEO) satellites	18 full operation capable satellites in orbit 30 operational satellites budgeted	Total : 7 In Orbit : 7
Frequency	1.57542 GHz (L1 signal) 1.2276 GHz (L2 signal)	Around 1.602 GHz (SP) Around 1.246 GHz (SP)	1.561098 GHz (B1) 1.589742 GHz (B1-2) 1.20714 GHz (B2) 1.26852 GHz (B3)	1.164 –1.215 GHz (E5a and E5b) 1.260 –1.300 GHz (E6) 1.559 –1.592 GHz (E2-L1-E11)	L5-band 1164.45 –1188.45 MHz S-band 2483.5-2500 MHz)
Status	Operational	Operational	22 satellites operational, 40 additional satellites 2016-2020	18 satellites operational, 12 additional satellites 2016-2020	Operational

Regional satellite navigation systems

BeiDou-1

Chinese regional (Asia-Pacific, 16 satellites) network to be expanded into the whole global system which consists of all 35 satellites by 2020.

NAVIC

The **NAVIC** or **NAVigation with Indian Constellation** is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) which would be under the total control of Indian government. The government approved the project in May 2006, with the intention of the system completed and implemented on 28 April 2016. It will consist of a constellation of 7 navigational satellites.^[10] 3 of the satellites will be placed in the Geostationary orbit (GEO) and the remaining 4 in the Geosynchronous orbit(GSO) to have a larger signal footprint and lower number of satellites to map the region. It is intended to provide an all-weather absolute position accuracy of better than 7.6 meters throughout India and within a region extending approximately 1,500 km around it.^[11] A goal of complete Indian control has been stated, with the space segment, ground segment and user receivers all being built in India.^[12] All seven satellites, IRNSS-1A, IRNSS-1B, IRNSS-1C, IRNSS-1D, IRNSS-1E, IRNSS-1F, and IRNSS-1G, of the proposed constellation were precisely launched on 1 July 2013, 4 April 2014, 16 October 2014, 28 March 2015, 20 January 2016, 10 March 2016 and 28 April 2016 respectively from Satish Dhawan Space Centre.^{[13][14]} The system is expected to be fully operational by August 2016.^[15]

QZSS

The Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), is a proposed three-satellite regional time transfer system and enhancement for GPS covering Japan. The first demonstration satellite was launched in September 2010.^[16]

Augmentation

GNSS augmentation is a method of improving a navigation system's attributes, such as accuracy, reliability, and availability, through the integration of external information into the calculation process, for example, the Wide Area Augmentation System, the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service, the Multi-functional Satellite Augmentation System, Differential GPS, and inertial navigation systems.

DORIS

Doppler Orbitography and Radio-positioning Integrated by Satellite (DORIS) is a French precision navigation system. Unlike other GNSS systems, it is based on static emitting stations around the world, the receivers being on satellites, in order to precisely determine their orbital position. The system may be used also for mobile receivers on land with more limited usage and coverage. Used with traditional GNSS systems, it pushes the accuracy of positions to centimetric precision (and to millimetric precision for altimetric application and also allows monitoring very tiny seasonal changes of Earth rotation and deformations), in order to build a much more precise geodesic reference system.^[17]

Low Earth orbit satellite phone networks

The two current operational low Earth orbit satellite phone networks are able to track transceiver units with accuracy of a few kilometers using doppler shift calculations from the satellite. The coordinates are sent back to the transceiver unit where they can be read using AT commands or a graphical user interface.^{[18][19]} This can also be used by the gateway to enforce restrictions on geographically bound calling plans.

Positioning calculation

See also

- Acronyms and abbreviations in avionics
- Geoinformatics
- GNSS reflectometry
- GPS-aided geo-augmented navigation
- GPS spoofing
- List of emerging technologies
- Receiver Autonomous Integrity Monitoring
- Software GNSS Receiver
- Space Integrated GPS/INS (SIGI)
- Pseudolite

Notes

- a. Orbital periods and speeds are calculated using the relations $4\pi^2R^3 = T^2GM$ and $V^2R = GM$, where R = radius of orbit in metres, T = orbital period in seconds, V = orbital speed in m/s, G = gravitational constant $\approx 6.673 \times 10^{-11}$ Nm²/kg², M = mass of Earth $\approx 5.98 \times 10^{24}$ kg.
- b. Approximately 8.6 times (in radius and length) when the moon is nearest (363 104 km ÷ 42 164 km) to 9.6 times when the moon is farthest (405 696 km ÷ 42 164 km).

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Further reading

- Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations (2010), *Report on Current and Planned Global and Regional Navigation Satellite Systems and Satellite-based Augmentation Systems*.^[2] (http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/pdf/publications/icg_ebook.pdf)

External links

Information on specific GNSS systems

- ESA information on EGNOS (http://www.esa.int/esaNA/GGG63950NDC_egnoss_0.html)
- Information on the Beidou system (<http://www.astronautix.com/craft/beidou.htm>)

Organizations related to GNSS

- United Nations International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) (<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/gnss/icg.html>)
- Institute of Navigation (ION) GNSS Meetings (<http://www.ion.org/meetings/#gnss>)
- The International GNSS Service (IGS), formerly the International GPS Service (<http://igsceb.jpl.nasa.gov/>)
- International Global Navigation Satellite Systems Society Inc (IGNSS) (<http://www.ignss.org/>)
- International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) International GNSS Service (IGS) (<http://www.iers.org/MainDisp.csl?pid=84-63>)
- US National Executive Committee for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (<http://www.pnt.gov/>)
- US National Geodetic Survey (<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/orbits/>) Orbits for the Global Positioning System satellites in the Global Navigation Satellite System
- UNAVCO GNSS Modernization (http://facility.unavco.org/science_tech/gnss_modernization.html)
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) GNSS Implementation Team (<http://www.apecgit.org/>)

Supportive or illustrative sites

- GPS and GLONASS Simulation (<http://rhp.detmich.com/gps.html>) (Java applet) Simulation and graphical depiction of the motion of space vehicles, including DOP computation.
- GPS, GNSS, Geodesy and Navigation Concepts in depth (<http://northsurveying.com/index.php/soporte/gnss-and-geodesy-concepts>)

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