

## Develoments in Wireless Sensor Networks for Structural Health Monitoring



Laboratoire Central des Ponts & Chaussées (LCPC)

French Public Works Laboratory

Division for Metrology and Instrumentation

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Journées nationales sur la récupération et le stockage d'énergie pour l'alimentation des microsystèmes autonomes. ESIEE 14-15 oct 2010



# Synopsis :

- 1. LCPC : French Public Works Laboratory
- 2. Motivation for Wireless Sensors Networks (WSN) for Structural Health Monitoring
- 3. Needs translated into electronic constraints (new)
- 4. Bibliography Identified Wireless platforms
- 5. PEGASE : LCPC wireless and Generic Platform
- 6. An applied and operational WSN acoustic application based on PEGASE
- 7. Conclusions and roadmap







#### **LCPC : French Public Works Laboratory**

- 700 pers. National Lab : researchers, engineers, technicians.
- Mainly located on Nantes and Paris
- Focused on 5 scientific areas :
  - Trafic security and management
  - Materials for civil engineering constructions
  - Geotechnics and geophysics
  - Structures (bridges, buildings, road)
  - Environment and durability
- Activities are distributed in :
  - Research and development
  - Tests and structures validation
  - Assessments and reports
  - Dissemination, valorization, education...







#### 1. LCPC : French Public Works Laboratory

- LCPC manages some 10<sup>th</sup> exceptional research equipments
  - Centrifugal machine
  - Cable test bench
  - Roadways test bench
  - Trafic circuit
  - ..

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- LCPC teams are involved in
  - Local and national projects (ANR)
    - International projects (FP7, ESF, NSF)
  - Various networks : SHM, NDTCE, ECTP, Cansmart...
  - Other joined labs : Navier-ENPC, CEA-LETI, universities...











In LCPC especialy GEII team (Groupe Électronique et Informatique Industrielle) is fully involved in electronic designs and wireless systems developments and application

#### Human means (~8 full time pers) :

- · 3 engineers
- · 1 storekeeper / cabler
- · 3 technicians
  - Many students (training, alternation) ...

#### **Competences :**

- analog and digital electronic
- microprocessors and embedded computing
- software (c,c++ and object ,Linux, NI/Labview...)
- instrumentation, sensors and conditioning, signal processing,
- networks, wireless protocols and systems, energy storage and harvesting



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GEII team (Groupe Électronique et Informatique Industrielle)

#### Applications :

- · Products, prototypes, models
- · Validation systems...
- · Operational instrumentation systems
- · Data bases from sensors
- · « Help-to-decision » tools
- · Sensors and conditioning integrated for SHM or NDT systems













#### **PART 2 :**

Those last 4 years, LCPC GEII team lead active works in Wireless Sensors Networks applied to LCPC scopes : civil engineerings and specifically Structural Health Monitoring. For many reasons...







The need for wireless instrumentation in civil engineering situations is obvious for (at least) 4 reasons :

Reason 1: Structures vulnerability (due to age, vibrations, weather) and complexity :







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Specifically in Europe, since 2ng world war, trafic has considerably increased and structures are often over-exploited.



Reason 2 : Long structures (i.e. long distances between sensors), difficult to access, requirement of human inspections or specific and expensive machine



Viaduct of Millau : 2.460 Km !





« Epsilon » machine

Human cable inspection

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#### Reason 3 : No choice ! Wireless is somteimes dictated by the situation



- a) Control of an U.AV. for bridges inspection (instead of an « epsilon » machine)
- b) Vehicles to Infrastructure communication for road safety applications
- c) Nomad water level measurements
- d) Etc...



Reason 4 : Electrical cables between wired sensors are :

- Very expensive (48,8 kE of electrical cables on a total of 297,9 kE for Aquitaine bridge instrumentation = 16%)
- Subject to fatigue, corrosion, E.M. disturbances, tightness of connectors, vandalism...
- Synonym of limitations :
  - the number of sensors
  - distances between sensors and/or supervisor due to linear capacity and resistivity effects.
    Examples :
    - Ethernet ~80 m (1Mbps)
      - RS485 ~1000 m (10Kbps)









#### **PART 3 :**

When all previous inputs (wires, cost, security...) have been took into account, the needs and requirements have to be translated into electronic constraints.

LCPC tried -at its modest level- to identify and to analyse the digital / analog electronic challenges and the concepts to solve in order to get wireless platforms that fits SHM needs.

How to ?

A non exhaustive analyse ...





At least, following fields have to be investigated :

- Energy : power consuming, batteries choices, energy-harvesting and associated charging strategies
- Sensor time synchronization : often forgotten in wireless world !
- Wireless protocols : standardization, mass market / lower prices, security, distances
- **Computing embedded abilities** : signal processing, remotely configurable systems, smart systems
- **Sensor dimensions** : reducing size, ability to be drowned in materials, integration in various environments











**Energy** is a wide subject in wireless sensor world :

**Objective** : an energy-autonomous wireless system that :

- Run 24h a day 365 per/year for typically 3 years
- Mostly under outdoor conditions
- Usually needs some 100 of  $\mu W$  up to 100 mW





**Energy** is a wide subject in wireless sensor world :

- Wireless platform have to target lower power consumption while keeping a suitable level of computing and wireless communications range up to some 100<sup>th</sup> m (typical bridge span)
- Sensor batteries have to :
  - Be able of slow and fast charging / discharging phases (sun, wind)
  - Not too big (ex. : lead techno.)
  - Be safely managed (Ex : LiPo techno explosion)
- Energy harvesting sources impose limitations :
  - Solar cells => outdoor systems only
  - Small Wind turbines => outdoor and not determinist
  - Vibration based systems => specific sensor location
- Optimizations harvesting method have to be implemented (bobs)







A **wide bibliographical study** has been carried out. 3 main fields have been investigated. Then choices have been made (cf. PEGASE part below) :

- 1) Solar cells technologies
  - Amorphous

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- Polycrystalline
- Monocrystalline
- 2) Battery technologies
  - Lead
  - NiMH
  - LiPo
- 3) Optimizations methods
  - Boost
  - Buck Boost
  - + an MPPT algorithm





#### Sensor time synchronization : often forgotten in wireless world

A good question : How to get a common time base between sensors that have no physical link between each others ???

Structual Control implies Sensor distribution all along the structure

Collected data (T°c, Vibr., Displ., etc.) often need to be correlated or compared by monitoring algorithms

A simple conclusion : Les données mesurées, au niveau du capteur, doivent être correctement datées !

But without any synchronization and wired top, each electronic system time base drift (i.e. les quartz) quickly.





#### Sensor time synchronization and wireless sensors

#### Example 1 : cable-displacement monitoring



- Vibrations up to ~ 30 Hz
- Sensor sampling rate at ~ 300 Hz
- => Conclusion: to be compared, each sensor {Si ,Sj} must present a timebase such as || Ti – Tj || <= 3 mS ∀t.</p>



#### **Sensor time synchronization** and wireless sensors

#### Example 2 : wire-breaks in cable monitoring



- SHM system based on acoustic wave propagation and detection . Typical wave speed ( type « P ») in cable  $\cong$  5000 m/s
- Wished accuracy for rupture localization  $\cong$  15 cm
- => Conclusion: to be compared, each sensor {Si ,Sj} must present a timebase such as || Ti Tj || <= 30 µS ∀t.</li>



#### **Sensor time synchronization and wireless sensors**

#### SOLUTIONS ???

LCPC lead some studies and wrote articles about synchronization and wireless world : Vincent Le Cam, Laurent Lemarchand, Louis-Marie Cottineau. « Synchronization of wireless sensors : review of methodologies. Experience feedback of the very precise GPS solution » in Structural Health Monitoring (SHM), Granada, 2006, July 5,6,7.

- 3 main kind of solutions :
- distributed synchronization : through the wireless network (ask for energy)
- post-facto synchronization : not determinist, low accuracy
- absoltue-time synchronization : typically using GPS, used for PEGASE (cf. below)





Wireless protocols :

Various standard protocols now exist but have to be evaluated to criteria :

- Power consumption
- Security
- rate





- Reliability
  - Easy to integrate
  - span range





- Number of nodes
- Scalability

. . .



Proprietary solution ? No !



## 4 – (small) Bibliography - Identified wireless platforms



#### PART 4 : Bibliography - Identified Wireless platforms





## 4 – (small) Bibliography - Identified wireless platforms



- A bibliography and an active survey allowed to identify that
- some efficient wireless platform solutions exist
- are very few used and disseminated particulary in Civil Engineering- compared to the need and litterature. Some « intellectual market » have to be convinced
- wireless community is growing, special sessions apperars as « wireless monitoring » in (SHM, Structural Control...) workshops, congress.
- Few companies are fully « wireless » oriented. Wireless approach is difficult to define : it's a real job for engineers and just a way of measurement for customers

#### **Operationnal Wireless platforms examples :**





Beanair

**MicroStrain** 



Narada – Los Alamos 23



## 4 – (small) Bibliography - Identified wireless platforms

**Operationnal Wireless platforms examples :** 



Newsteo



2. The sensor boards come with an SMA (shown) or integrated antenna.

PF développement / Zigbee



#### **PF Meshnetics Zigbit**



#### NI / Labview acq2WiFi





#### **PART 5 :**

### **PEGASE** : LCPC Wireless and Generic platform And its improvments about energy



- → **Generic platform** : usable for a wide variety of applications
- $\rightarrow$  **Easily customisable** to specific instrumentation need. No need of electronic nor software expertise. C-Language programming
- $\rightarrow$  **Uses standards** as much as possible : TCP/IP (802.11) for communication, GPS for localization, DSP for signal processing...
- $\rightarrow$  **A synchronized platform** up to some  $\mu$ S
- $\rightarrow$  **Reasonable dimensions** and power consumption
- $\rightarrow$  A final product that acts as well as :
  - A ready-to-use platform

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- A pragmatic development board
- A quick prototyping solution





**Result = PEGASE** platform whose genericity resides in:

- $\rightarrow$  Hardware: plug and play mother-daughter boards. Many I/O for various purpose
- $\rightarrow$  Software:  $\mu$ Clinux as embedded OS Standard ANSI-C programming
- → **Miscellaneous:** uses a DSP (Blackfin /A.D.), a GPS, WiFi (802.11g) for IP communications



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C code



A specific solution for an application







Debug daughter board (d.b.)

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8 analog input +/- 5V / 100 kHz d.b.



CAN bus d.b.







Accelerometer d.b.



5 RS232 port d.b.





# <text>

#### 1) GPS absolute time synchronization / quartz correction

2) Setting GPS off while keeping synchronized

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- 3) Reusable foundation classes (software bricks)
- 4) Running H24 using solar cells and an optimized solution : boost + MPPT



#### GPS absolute time synchronization / quartz correction

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**Postulate** : No efficient solution exist in WSN to ensure an **accurate** and **determinist** synchronization mechanism between sensors. Nevertheless, in many use-cases, **time-stamping of data, event, edge, routine... is fundamental** to ensure the good SHM algorithm. Ex : control, vibration, wave-propagation... => from mS to  $\mu$ S !

PEGASE implements a solution based on its integrated GPS receiver. Principle :





## GPS absolute time synchronization / quartz correction

On each PPS, time counter is reset : each PEGASE is re-synchronized. Test-bench and verifications have been carried out : comparison in time-stamping of a same event (rising edge)



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**First result**: time stamping of a same event by two PEGASE never exceed 15  $\mu$ S. That residual difference is not due to PPS but to the natural quartz drift (factory error) Note that GPS technique also provides an absolute stamping : U.T.C.



## GPS absolute time synchronization / quartz correction

To take into account natural quartz factory error, LCPC has developped its **own** real-time driver running in the uClinux embedded OS (expertise required).

A specific algorithm is applied on each PPS:

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1- First delta **d** between theorical 1000000  $\mu$ S and real *time\_counter* value is computed  $_{d=100000-time_{counter}}$ 

2- Then average of 16 last evaluations of d is done

3- Thus, for each event that has to be time stamped a linear correction is applied to the  $\mu$ S read in *time\_counter* :

 $Event_{uS} = time_{counter}/(100000 - d16)\mu S$ 





## **GPS** absolute time synchronization / quartz correction



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**Final result**: time stamping of a same event by two PEGASE never 4  $\mu$ S !!! (UTC) in a determinist manner

PEGASE processus dynamically takes into account quartz error and temperature effect as it evaluates and up to dates the quartz drift

The final 4  $\mu$ S (maximum) of error is probably due to the latency of  $\mu$ CLinux to serve the LCPC specific driver interruption.



## Setting GPS off while keeping synchronized

Postulate : the PPS based synchronization method is robust and very accurate **BUT** the GPS receiver ask  $\sim$  30 mW when set ON. Thas is a lot in WSN.

Idea : as far as quartz drift is very well estimated (d16) and stable in time, then it is possible to turn OFF the GPS receiver and then to makes *time\_counter* based on a new period equals to 1000000 – d16  $\mu$ S (that represent the "real second").



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#### **Results** :

Only the uncertainty on lauchning a new timer synch. to SCLK has consequences When GPS is ON during 60s and then OFF during 600s the drift of the sensor is about 270 µS

Under development

Most of the time GPS can be set OFF and then 30 mW of GPS power consumption become 3mW (average)



## **Reusable foundation classes (software bricks)**

To ensure simplicity, quick developments and reusability of source code, PEGASE also provides a collection of ready to use classes (written in C-object or C++) : UFC UcLinux Foundation Classes

Thus, for a specific application, user can implements available objects. Each classe encapsulates the management of a physical port, a service, some function...

- CPortSPI

- CSignalProcessing

- CPortRS232

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- CTimer

- CTcpIpClient
- CTcplpServer
- CPortFlag
- CGPS
- CAbsoluteTime

- CNetworkManager
- CLeds







## Running on a solution using solar cells

PEGASE energy assessment = 260 mW (  $12\text{V} \times 22 \text{ mA}$ ) with CPU = 250 Mhz, WiFi OFF & GPS OFF (most of the time).

This is a lot ? Remember that an OS is embedded and high level functions are integrated

**Objective** : making PEGASE to run H24, indefinitely, using solar cells and a battery. Solar cells must fit reasonable dimensions : less than an A4 paper dimension



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#### Running on a solution using solar cells Theorical approach / dimensioning the solution :

- Official database servers allows to predict the shinning possible hope (per localization / per m<sup>2</sup> / per month). Example ISPRA JRC database
- The effectiveness of a solar cell is well know (~16 % for polycrystalline)

+

- Wished power consumption is an known input by WSN designer (260 mW for PEGASE)
- => So the minimal theorical dimension needed for solar cell can be predicted



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101010	11(10)	inope	Tobe
Jan	1740	1680	63
Feb	2670	2670	57
Mar	3840	4100	47
Apr	4010	4670	32
May	3910	4910	18
Jun	4020	5250	13
Jul	4230	5450	17
Aug	4350	5240	27
Sep	4350	4770	43
Oct	3380	3430	55
Nov	2520	2390	64
Dec	1560	1460	66
Year	3880	3880	36

Mois H(70) Hopt Iopt

Hopt : Irradiation on optimally inclined (36<sup>-</sup>) plane (Wh/m2) H(70) : Irradiation on plane at angle : 70deg. (Wh/m2) Iopt : Optimal inclination (deg.)



Dimensions = 269 x 251 mm Pmax = 4.5 Watt Vmax = 16.5 Volts





Running on a solution using solar cells

The challenge of running on solar cells => getting the maximum power than possible !

Most of the time, solar solutions miss the available energy available under the battery level !



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> Even if solar cell voltage is lower than battery voltage, why not getting that lost energy ???

Solution : increasing (boosting) solar cell voltage as much as possible over battery voltage threshold



Running on a solution using solar cells

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Principle of a boost circuit to increase solar cell voltage



- Continously adding a L.di/dt voltage to solar cell via mosfet transistor transitions
- Charge and discharge of the self  ${\bf L}$  increase apparent voltage
- Then diode **D** threshold is most of the time exceeded
- Then solar cell current makes PEGASE running and battery charging

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Running on a solution using solar cells Improving the boost circuit with a MPPT algorithm : Maximum Power Point Tracking

- The boost circuit doesn't guarantee that the Maximum Power Point is always reached
- The best consists in implementing a control algorithm that is always searching the maximum available power by making variation of the transistor open/close phases
- This can be achieved by a PWM (Pulse Width Modulation) on Mosfet transistor while reading continously Voltage and Current that ouput from boost circuit.





Running on a solution using solar cells Such a solution has been implemented. The solution is then double :

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- **Hardware** : a specific PEGASE daughter board integrates : boost circuit + reading voltage/current operation via an I2C component
- **Software** : a simple real-time algorithm (under IT) that perform a Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) at 80 kHz that always modify width to in/de-crease boost voltage to get the MPPT





#### Running on a solution using solar cells

Such a solution has been implemented, tested, qualified during 1 year:



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Mois	H(70)	Hopt	Iopt
Jan	1740	1680	63
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Mar	3840	4100	47
Apr	4010	4670	32
May	3910	4910	18
Jun	4020	5250	13
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Aug	4350	5240	27
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Oct	3380	3430	55
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Year	3880	3880	36

Hopt : Irradiation on optimally inclined (36<sup>\*</sup>) plane (Wh/m2) H(70): Irradiation on plane at angle : 70deg. (Wh/m

 $\dot{H}(70)$  : Irradiation on plane at angle : 70deg. (Wh/m2) Iopt : Optimal inclination (deg.)



PEGASE WORKS 24/24h 365d/year !!!



#### PART 6 :

#### An acoustic application based on PEGASE





## First application based on PEGASE : CASC system : cable health monitoring





#### **Objective : detect and localize wire-breaks in cables**

**Principle** : a wire break occurs => two acoustic wave are generated in both direction from X.

A distribution of sensors all allong cable, able to detect that acoustic wave Une using an accelerometer and a threshold comparison

Each sensor that make wave-detection transmits wave-shape and time of detection to a remote Supervisor close to the bridge

Supervisor knows each relative sensor location and then is able to compute wave speed and to determine X as point of rupture





## **Development / principle :**



Detection by tracking the wave by a distribution of sensors. Each accelerometer is directly fixed to the cable.



**A first generation** of such a system has already been deployed on several bridges in France (Aquitaine, Tancarville, Iseron, Foix, Merlebach, Ancenis,...). Actually som bridges are under such a monitoring (~ 300 sensors)





Tancarville



Iseron



#### **Objective = a second generation with new goals**

- To record the full shape of acoustic waves to improve phenomena knowledge and accuracy
- To developp a wireless version (less expensive) at least for communication (not for energy)
- To simplify the management of hundreds of sensors by modern protocols and software











**First generation** 

## **New generation**<sup>48</sup>



## Sensor design...

Each sensor is a smart system based on PEGASE that :

- Accelerometer conditionning, threshold comparison of acoustic wave on a specific PEGASE daughter board
- When threshold is exceeded (wire break) : an 8 ms frame of signal is recorded (at 250 kHz) including a pre-trigger period
- Ensure an absoltute time -synchronization up to some  $\mu S$  thanks to PPS technique
- Wireless TCP/IP / WIFI transmission of data, updates, keepalive...









## SUPERVISOR

**Supervisor** = high level software writen in oriented objet language (Visual C++) :

- globale view of the system (sensor status, events...)
- Records and shows waves from signal
- Interfaces to remotely parameterize each sensor : localization, threshold, sampling frequency, TCP/IP config. ...
- Real time routine for rupture detection
- Sends alarm by SMS/GSM to operators









### Supervisor



Global view and management of deployed sensors



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#### Supervisor



View of acoustic waves from sensors

Transfers to Matlab, DLL,...possible



## Supervisor...





## Validation and tests:

- Continous sampling at 250 kHz on 12 bits
- Absolute time-stamping up to some µS thanks to PPS/ GPS tech.
- Real-time monitoring. LCPC wrote its own «Linux driver to manage SPI-DMA » !









### Validation test at Merlebach viaduc (57)



First tests on a pre-stressed beam pushed to rupture. Real wire-breaks !



First and second generation of the acoustic system under competition 55



#### Validation test at JRC of ISPRA - Italy







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### **Final validation on Ancenis bridge**













## **Conclusion and roadmap**





# **Conclusion and roadmap**

Compare to traditional wired instrumentation, wireless systems are promised to future growing dissemination especially in Civil Engineerings (cost reasons)

The develoment of PEGASE generic platform lead to a global view of the key points to perform. Even if it has some limitations (power consumption), that board is actually under a third-party partner (www.A3IP.com company) and is sold in hundreds of specimens.

Implementation of std technology paves the ground of wide dissemination and support : TCP/IP/WiFi, GPS / PPS synch., DSP processing, C-under Linux programming, etc

Some concepts have to be perform : MPPT algorithm, BOOST circuit, battery charging management (NiMH charge limit), GPS and processor sleeping...etc.

At LCPC, a lot of work in WSN has been done since 4 years but a lot reminds to do especially in: energy harvesting and power management, other protocols (802.15.4, 6 LoPan...)

#### We are open to any contribution / collaboration59



## **Conclusion and roadmap**

