

# Team Inspiration

**2020 INCOSE SD  
Mini-Conference**  
5 December 2020

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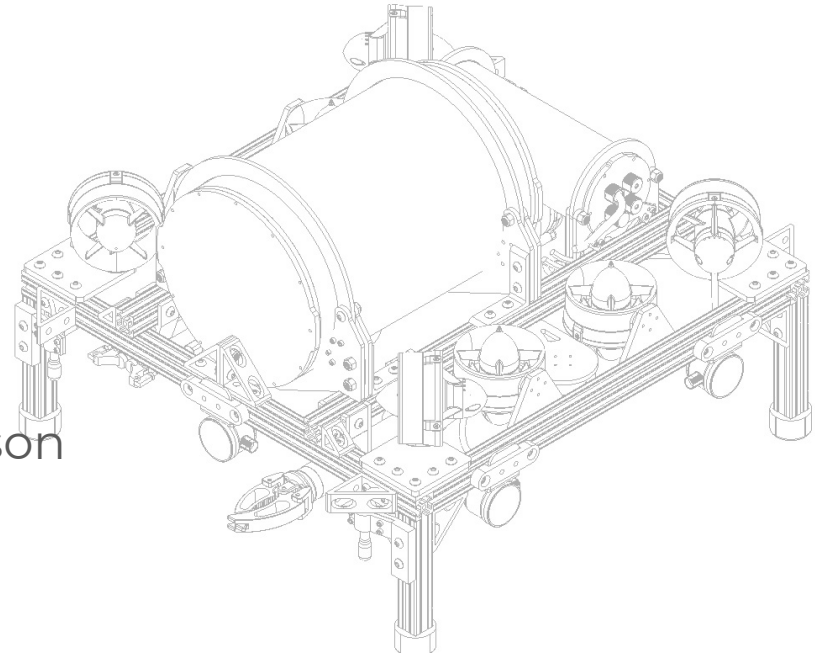
## Competitive Edge of the 2020 RoboSub World Champion Team

Ashiria Goel, Colin Szeto, Mabel Szeto,  
Rishi Veerepalli



# Agenda

- About RoboSub
- About Team Inspiration
  - Team History
  - Team Inspiration News
- Systems Engineering during 2020 season
  - Virtual Competition
  - Competition Results
  - Our Robot
  - Covid-19 Adaptations
  - Digital Engineering
- Our Learnings
  - What Made Our Team Excel
  - Global Changes In Systems Engineering
  - Attributes of a Successful Systems Engineer
- Questions



# RoboSub Info and Venue

“RoboSub is an international student competition. Student teams from around the world design and build robotic submarines, otherwise known as Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV). The behaviors demonstrated by these experimental AUVs mimics those of real-world systems, currently deployed around the world for underwater exploration, seafloor mapping, and sonar localization, amongst many others.” - RoboNation



2019  
images



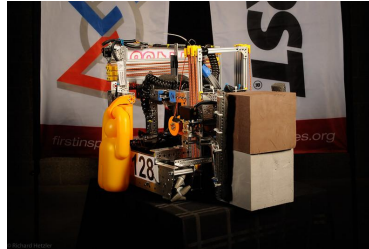
2020 is the 23rd annual RoboSub competition



# Team Inspiration History



2011 - FIRST Lego League (FLL)



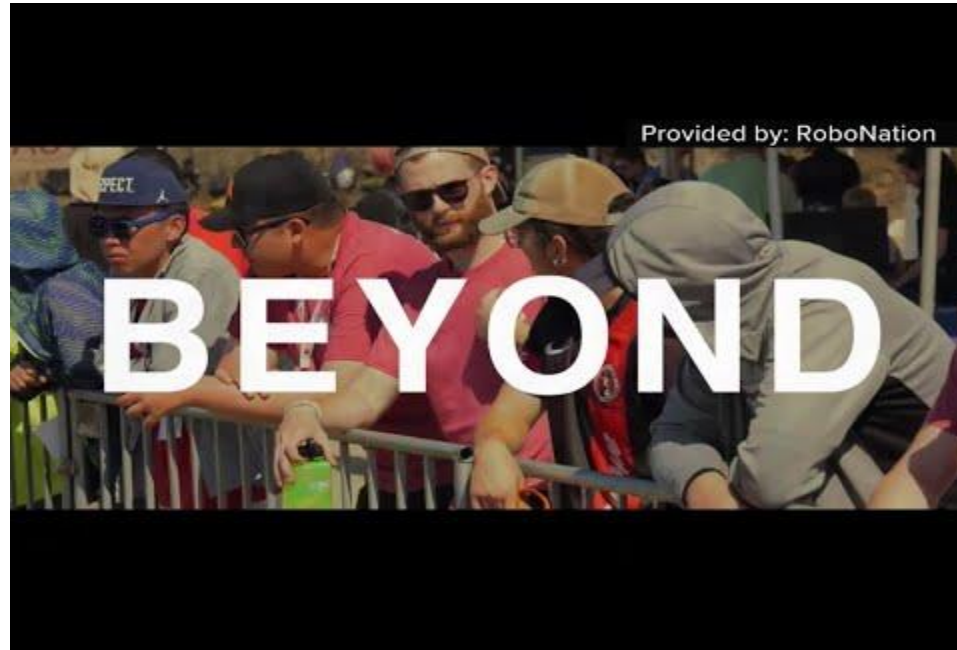
2020 - RoboSub  
12 middle/high schoolers

Systems engineering is the basis of our robotics journey





# Our Team in the News



Video provided by: CBS 8

Getting the message out to the public





# Competition Results

## Overall Standings

- 1st Place: [Team Inspiration](#)  
2nd Place: [Si Se Puede Foundation & Arizona State University](#)  
3rd Place: [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#)  
4th Place: [San Diego State University](#)  
5th Place: [Carnegie Mellon University](#)  
6th Place: [University of Alberta](#)

## Video Standings

- 1st Place: [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#)  
2nd Place: [Team Inspiration](#)  
3rd Place: [Indian Institute of Technology Bombay](#)  
4th Place: [Si Se Puede Foundation & Arizona State University](#)  
5th Place: [San Diego State University](#)

## Technical Design Report Standings

- 1st Place: [Team Inspiration](#)  
2nd Place: [California Institute of Technology](#)  
3rd Place: [Si Se Puede Foundation & Arizona State University](#)  
4th Place: [Duke University](#)  
5th Place: [The Ohio State University](#)

## Website Standings

- 1st Place: [Team Inspiration](#)  
2nd Place: [Si Se Puede Foundation & Arizona State University](#)  
3rd Place: [Amador Valley High School](#)  
4th Place: [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#)  
5th Place: [École de Technologie Supérieure](#)

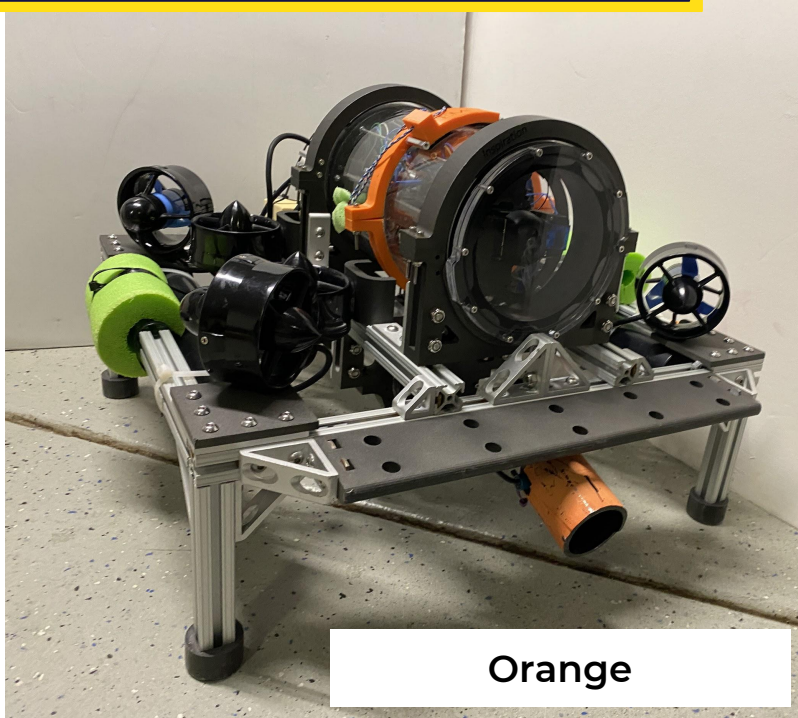
## 33 TEAMS

- Ain Shams University
- Amador Valley High School
- Arizona State University
- Beaver Country Day School
- California Institute of Technology
- California State University, Los Angeles
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Duke University
- École de Technologie Supérieure
- Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Gonzaga University
- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- Kasetart University
- Kennesaw State University
- National University of Singapore
- North Carolina State University
- Oregon Institute of Technology
- Robotics Association at Embry-Riddle
- San Diego City College
- San Diego State University
- Si Se Puede Foundation & Arizona State University
- Team Inspiration
- Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Texas A&M University
- The Ohio State University
- University of Alberta
- University of California at Riverside
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- Vortex NTNU
- Wrocław University of Science and Technology

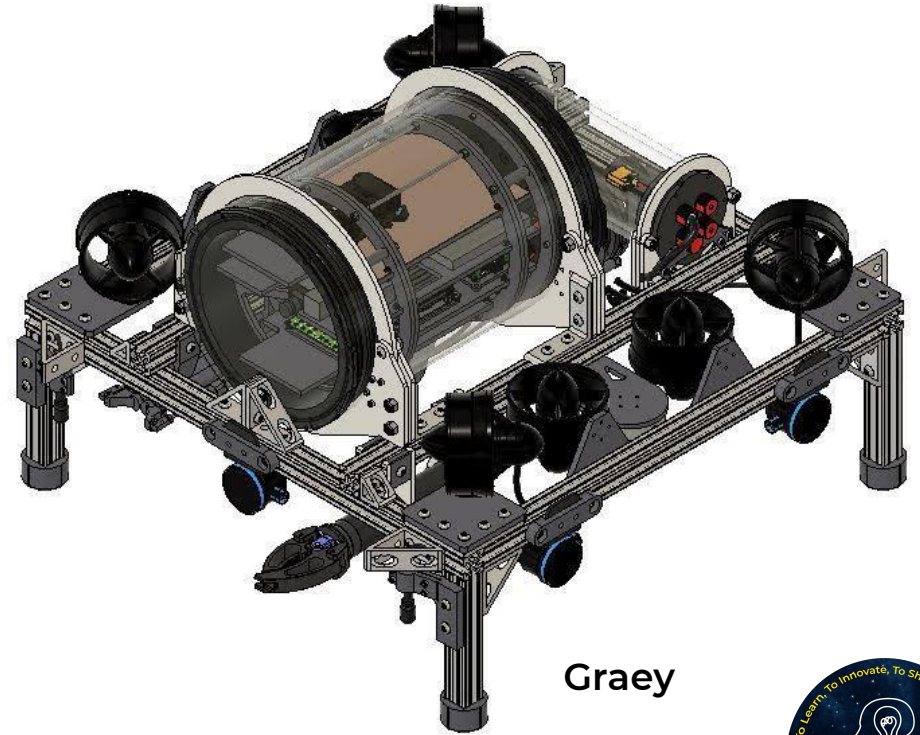
Being requirement-driven enabled us to win



# Our 2020 Robots



Orange



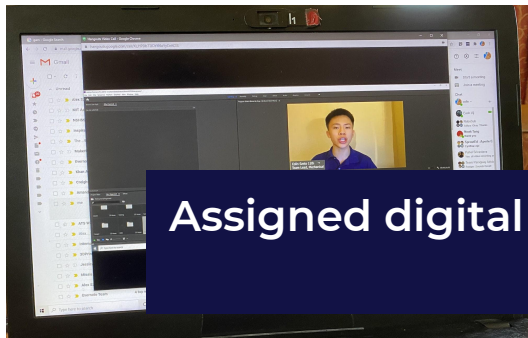
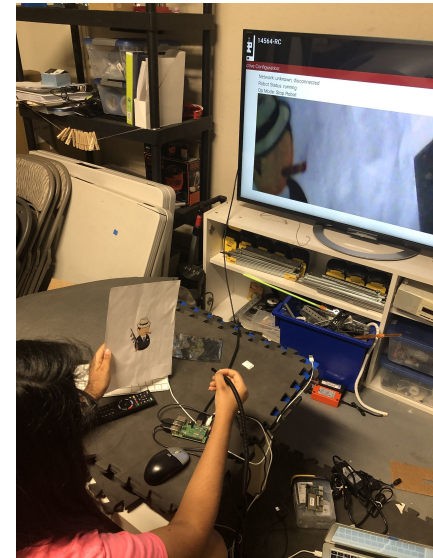
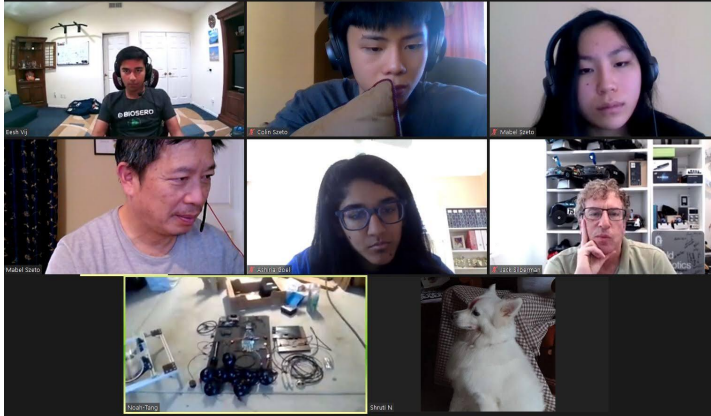
Gray

Dual robot strategies maximized our game potential





# COVID-19 Adaptations

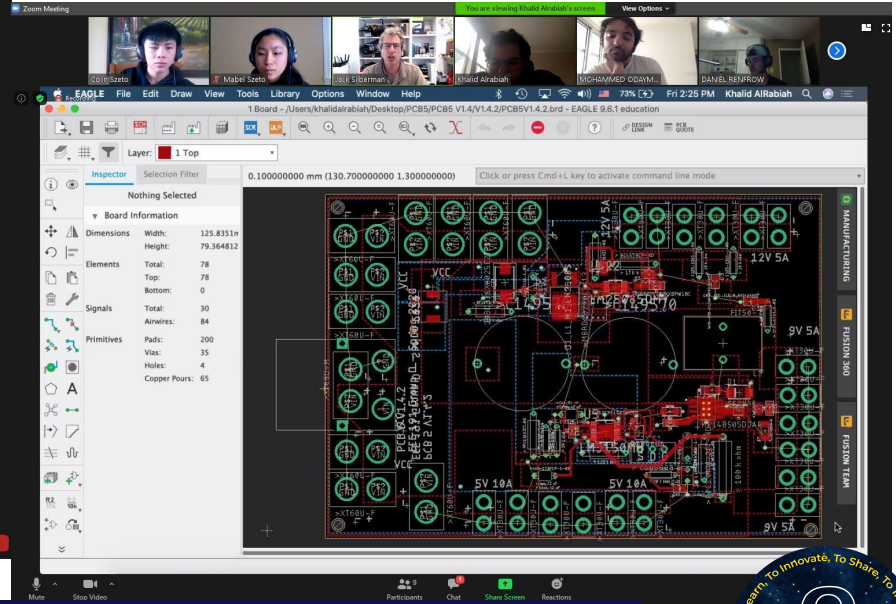
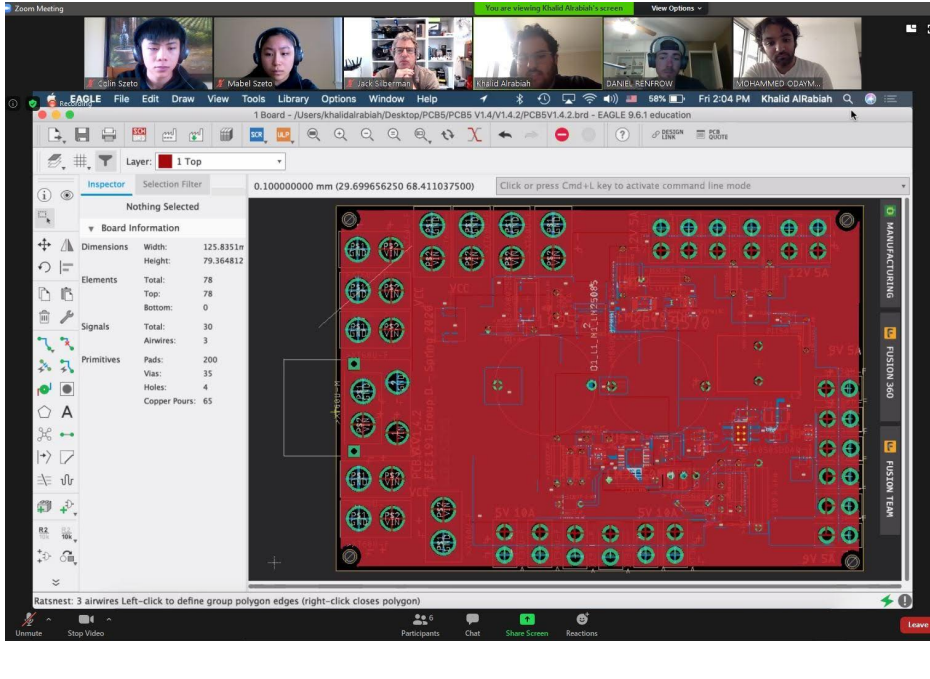


Assigned digital nomad jobs, distributed resources for development





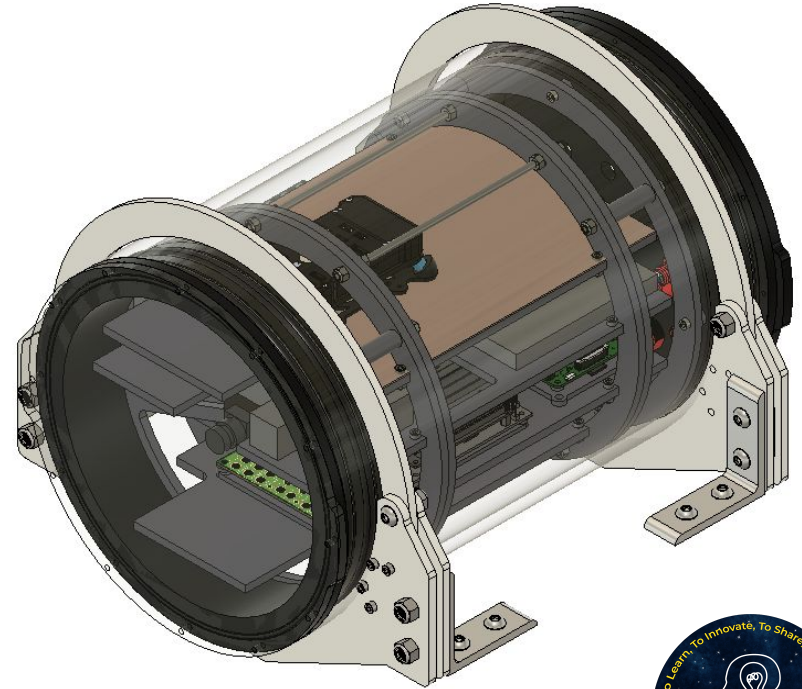
# External Collaboration



Digital development enabled us to collaborate remotely. Surprisingly, we had more collaboration with professionals due to COVID-19.



# Parallel Prototyping

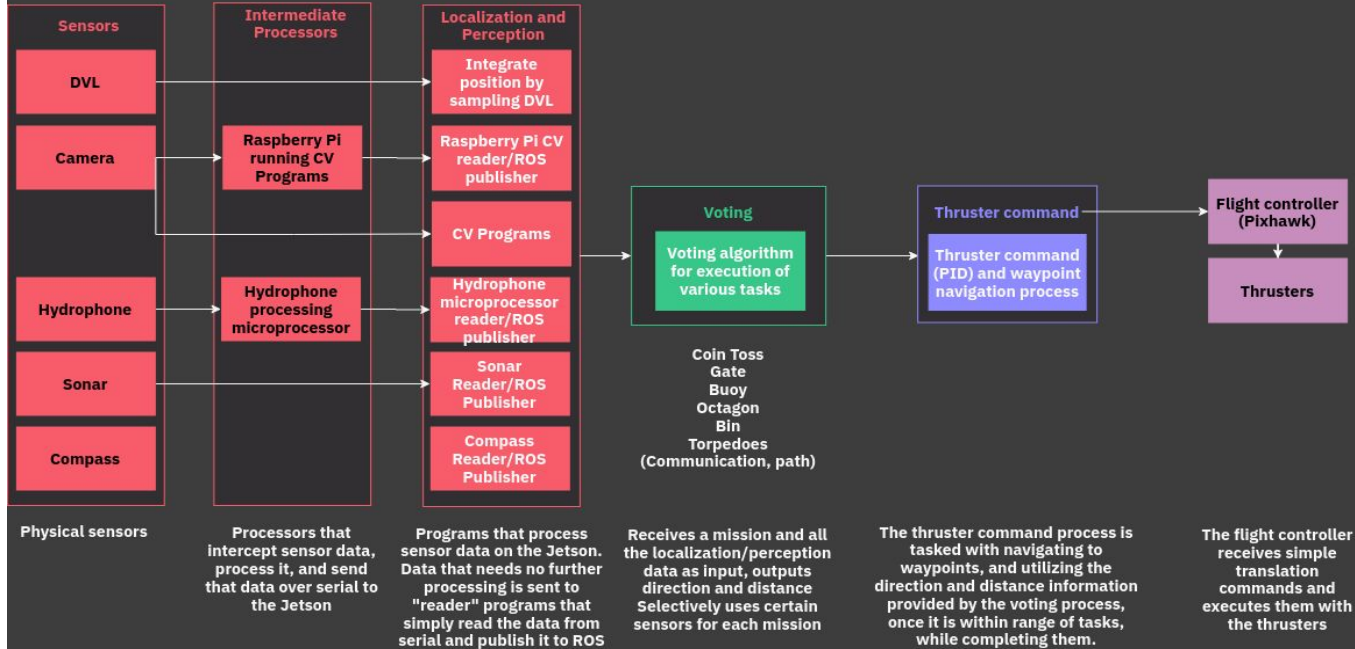


Independent team members' concepts



# Navigation Software Architecture

## Navigation Processes



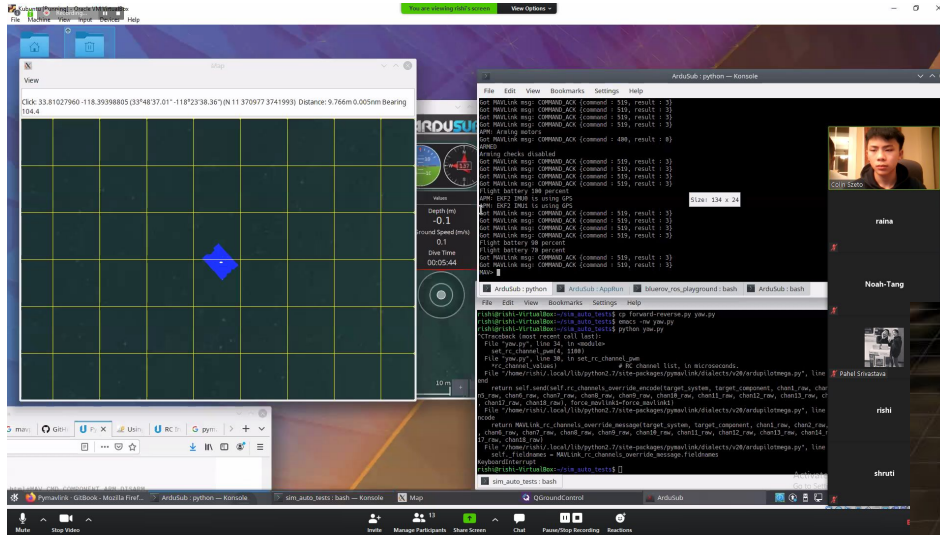
Localization/perception programs interpret data from hardware, and produce information about env. or location

Sensor fusion program combines localization programs' data to produce estimate of location and env.

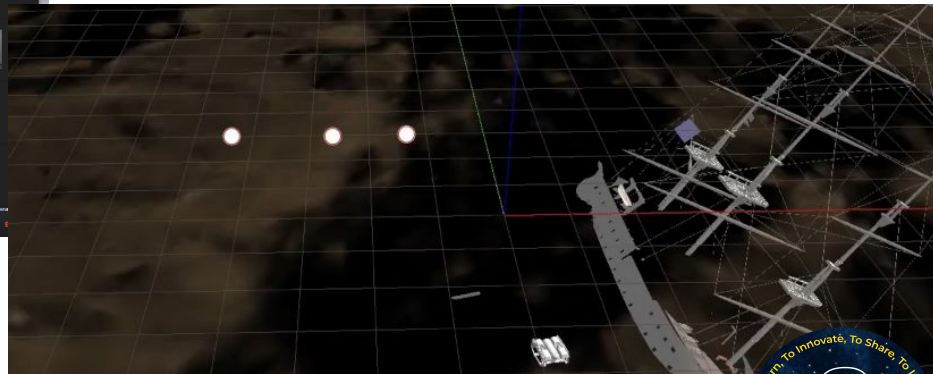
Sent to thruster cmd process which controls motors based on information provided by the sensor fusion program

Clear Architecture and Flow Diagrams

# Virtual Simulation



A software in the loop (SITL) 6DoF simulation that simulates our flight controller runs in an Ubuntu virtual machine. SITL is linked with Gazebo to provide a 3D model/visualization. Gazebo also provides information like coordinates/heading which we can use to verify simulation results. We model sensor inputs using the position and velocity information Gazebo gives us.



Utilizing Gazebo and ArduSub software-in-the-loop simulation in place of in-water testing



# RoboSub Motion Conceptualization



Visualizing the movement and communication to others





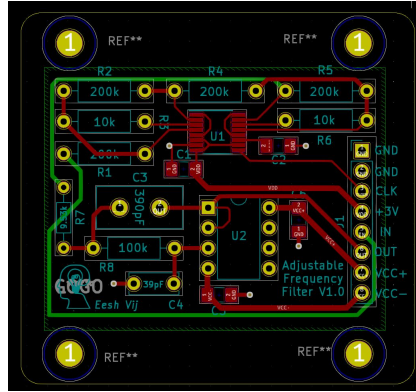
# Hydrophones

- Three hydrophones used around Græy in the vertices of the largest possible equilateral triangle that fit in our design
- Sampling at 200 kHz at a 12-bit resolution allowing for precise signal processing
- The signal processing takes place on single custom designed PCB which offloads the amplification, noise isolation, and frequency selection to a hardware based solution, freeing resources on the processor.
- The algorithm takes into account the Differences in the Time of Arrivals (DTOA) of each signal to calculate the approximate heading of the pinger.

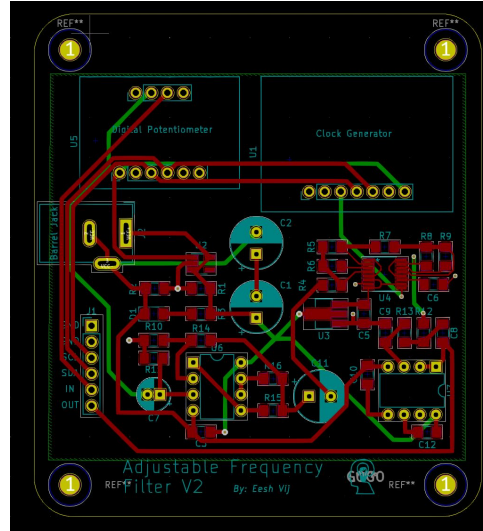
Algorithm development



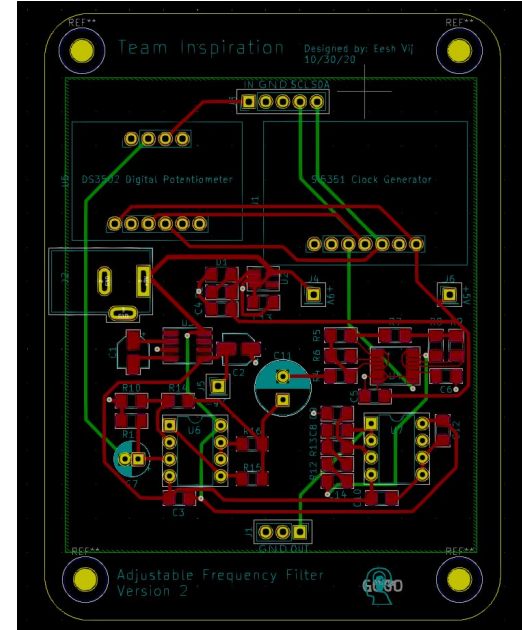
# PCB Designs



V1



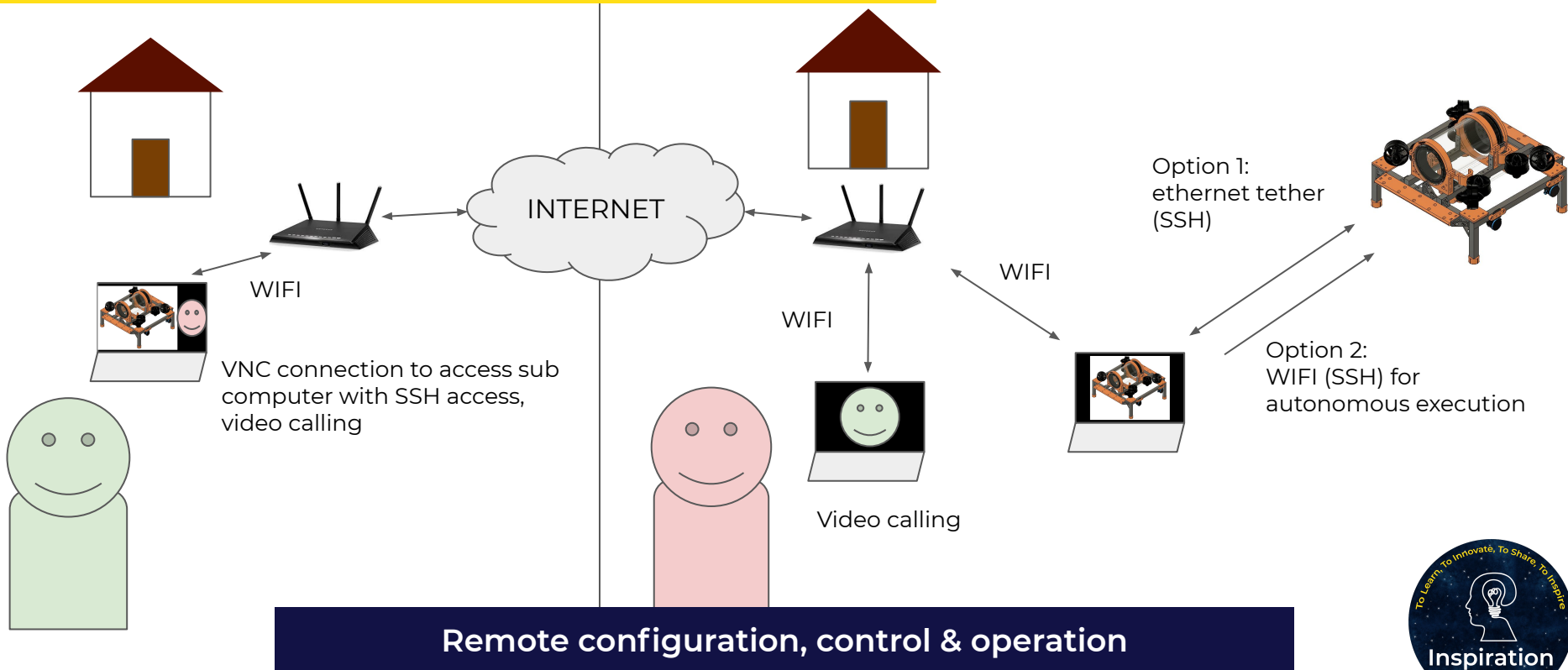
V2



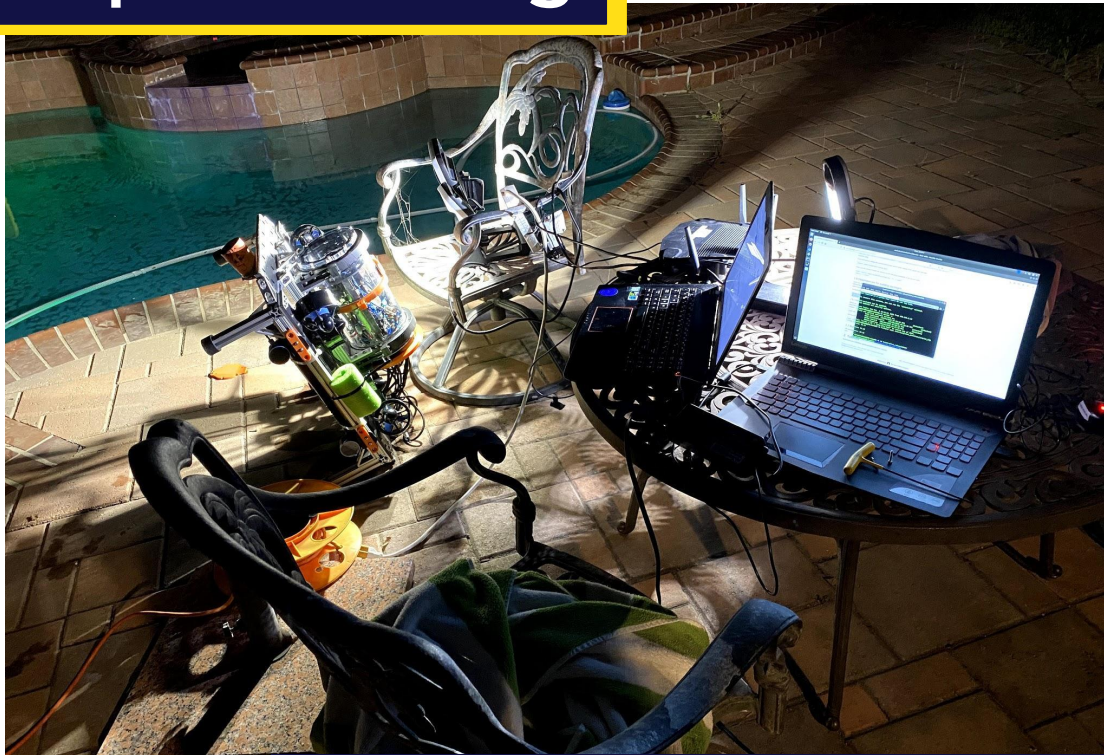
V2.1

Everything is developed in iterations

# Network of Online Testing



# In-pool Testing



Remote testing with in-pool support





# What Made Our Team Excel

- Focus on the competition guidelines
- Competitor analysis and research
- Hard work and dedication
- Communication
- Iteration and parallel prototyping
- Trade studies
- Attention to detail
- Rigor in documentation
- Utilizing mentors and vendors
- Team work
- Availability
- Solution oriented

Because we are solution oriented COVID is not a blocker



Attributes	Weight	Dual Enclosure		Single Long Hull (Blh)		Box Enclosure		Current Configuration (Short Gln)		Dual Hull Connected	
		Rank 1-5	weighted	Rank 1-5	weighted	Rank 1-5	weighted	Rank 1-5	weighted	Rank 1-5	weighted
Capacity	4	4	16	4	16	4	16	2	8	5	20
Water displacement(size)	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	4	0	4	0
Min Ports?	10	1	10	1	10	1	10	0	0	1	10
Ports	3	5	15	2	6	3	9	1	3	4	12
Cost	3	3	9	4	12	1	3	5	15	1	3
Ease of Maintenance(ease to open up and debug sensors etc.)	4	3	12	2	8	5	20	3	12	5	20
Ease of Fabrication (if we can make it in the garage with the tools we have)	5	4	20	4	20	1	5	5	25	1	5
Convenience (what we can do now)	3	2	6	4	12	5	15	5	15	3	9
Room for expansion	4	4	16	3	12	3	12	1	4	3	12
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>91</b>

More points = Better

## Team Inspiration

### The Design of Team Inspiration's 2020 AUV's

Colia Sato (team lead), Ashrita Goel (deputy), Ashika Palacharla, Aditya Maralankar, Shruv Nankal, Rains Shapur, Palak Srivastava, Mabel Sato, Noah Tang, Rishi Venkatesh, and Erik Vg

*Abstract—Team Inspiration focuses on perpetually learning and improving, and we set out to improve our sub's navigation and expand our mission capabilities. Our second year team of 12 middle and high schoolers designed our 2 AUV's for the 2020 RoboSub competition, Gray and Orange (our AUV from last year modified to fit this year's challenge). Through designing Gray, we learned how to use Robot Operating System—design—process—circuits—sensors, hydrophones, simulation, and machine learning—hydrophones, and Solidworks, and design Physical Circuit Boards. After the onset of the global pandemic, our team learned effective virtual collaboration and remote operation. Our 2 sub strategy allowed learning of intersub communication which provides us an edge in competition. Our experience in sub design gave us an opportunity to partner with educators to create a sub under \$500 for STEM education.*

We enhanced our image recognition by specifically working on determining the position of the image in relation to the AUV; and image identification recognition. CV is used to identify

the buoy; and differentiate whether the tasks correspond to the G-man or Bootlegger. Hydrophones are used to locate the pingers that mark the topodes and surfacing tasks. A DVL is used to navigate to each task. This way Gray can get close enough to the tanks so the shorter ranged sensors like the sonar and CV can take over to assist Gray with accomplishing the missions. We implemented fail-safes into the program for redundancy.

We used simulated Orange's simplistic and modular construction to reduce designing time by 80% and increased the reliability of the sub. We used two subs per rules as

only the highest points earned at each attempted task will be counted and each run is ended only after both subs have surfaced. We can gain points through the intersub communication task. We determined the benefits of two subs far outweigh

our team last year, so we kept these processes. We continue to use Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) products where feasible and incorporate custom hardware/software as needed. We did not have intersub communication last





# Global Changes In Systems Engineering

- Everything is accelerating
- Scrum allows to meet the demand
- Systems Engineering and planning becomes paramount
- Online collaborative environments allows designers and collaborators to see the big picture
- In person environments are not necessary to learn and collaborate

**Digitization demands speed, accuracy, documentation, and configuration control**



# Attributes of a Successful Systems Engineer

- Be curious
- Requirement driven
- Use the systems engineering processes
- Plan out system architecture
- Observes and adapts
- Be flexible
- Test, test, test
- See both the big and small picture
- Trust but verify
- Ensure every task moves the team toward the end goal

**Ability to focus on the big picture and adapt accordingly.  
System Thinking is Key.**



# Questions?



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Email: [11128inspiration@gmail.com](mailto:11128inspiration@gmail.com)



# Græy

## Computer Vision

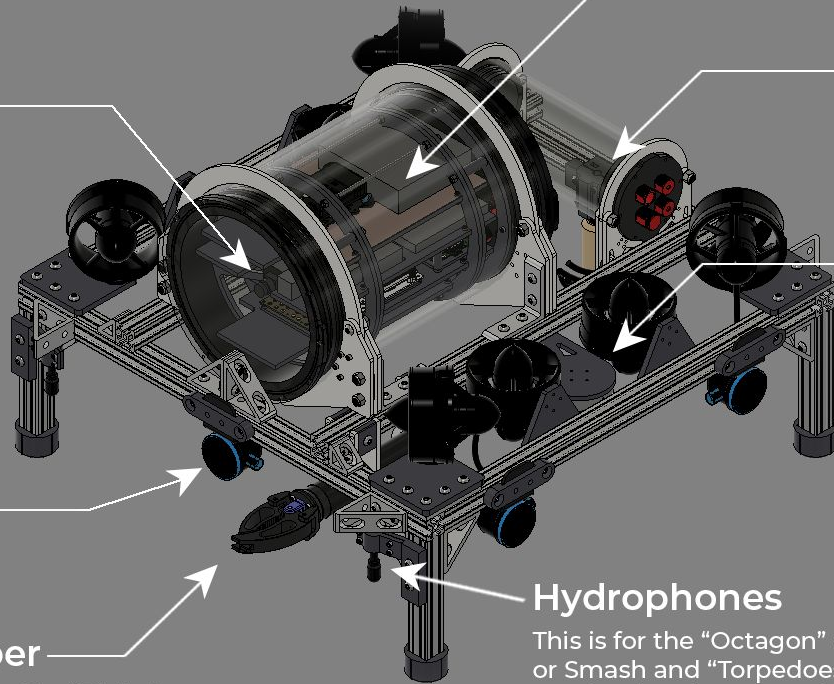
This is for the "Gate" aka Choose Your Side, "Buoys" aka Make the Grade, "Bin" aka Collecting, "Torpedoes" aka Survive the Shootout, and "Octagon" aka Cash or Smash missions.

## Sonar

This is for the "Buoys" aka Make the Grade and "Torpedoes" aka Survive the Shootout missions.

## Gripper

This is for the "Bin" aka Collecting and "Octagon" aka Cash or Smash missions.



## Navigation

We used several sensor inputs and used ROS as our interprocess communication software to integrate the programs.

## Modem

This is for the intersub communication mission.

## DVL

This is for navigating to every mission.

## Hydrophones

This is for the "Octagon" aka Cash or Smash and "Torpedoes" aka Survive the Shootout missions.