



# Field Phenomics: Developing and Using a Sensor Array

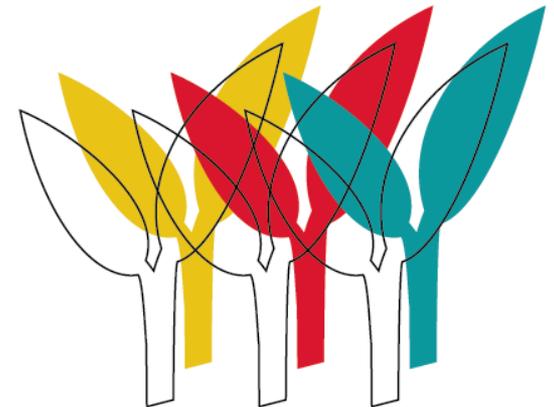
Presented by

**Pedro Andrade-Sanchez and John Heun**

University of Arizona



Hosted by  
**Shawn Yarnes**  
Plant Breeding and Genomics



# High Throughput Field Phenotyping

## Part I: Developing and using a sensor array

Pedro Andrade and John Heun



# High Throughput Field Phenotyping

## Part I: Developing and using a sensor array

Mike Gore, Jeff White, Andy French, Kelly Thorp, and  
Bob Strand



1. Platform development – Mechanical components
  - Field vehicle
  - Sensor frame
  
2. Electronic components – Hardware
  - Plant sensors
  - GPS
  
3. Data collection – Hardware/software
  - System integration

Field-ready system for continuous plant data acquisition



## High-clearance vehicle



1. Front/back boom w/ parallel bars
2. Hydrostatic transmission
3. Articulated steering
4. Heavy duty engine
5. Hydraulic power
6. Supply of DC power
7. Ample pay load capacity
8. Very high center of gravity

## High-clearance vehicle



1. Front/back boom w/ parallel bars
2. Hydrostatic transmission
3. Articulated steering
4. Heavy duty engine
5. Hydraulic power
6. Supply of DC power
7. Ample pay load capacity
8. **Very high center of gravity**

## High-clearance vehicle – Preventing side overturn

### Safe operation

- OSH Act → Rollover Protection (ROP) for any tractor over 20 hp
- Seat belts
- Qualified operator
- Frequent inspection (tires and frame integrity in particular)
- Optimal field and road conditions → Even ground
- Wheel spacing (track) as wide as possible
- Avoid high speeds/sharp turns
- Consult with a machinery expert

High-clearance vehicle – UA prototype

Front boom: Forward placement of sensors minimize plant disruption



## Frame adjustment – vertical position

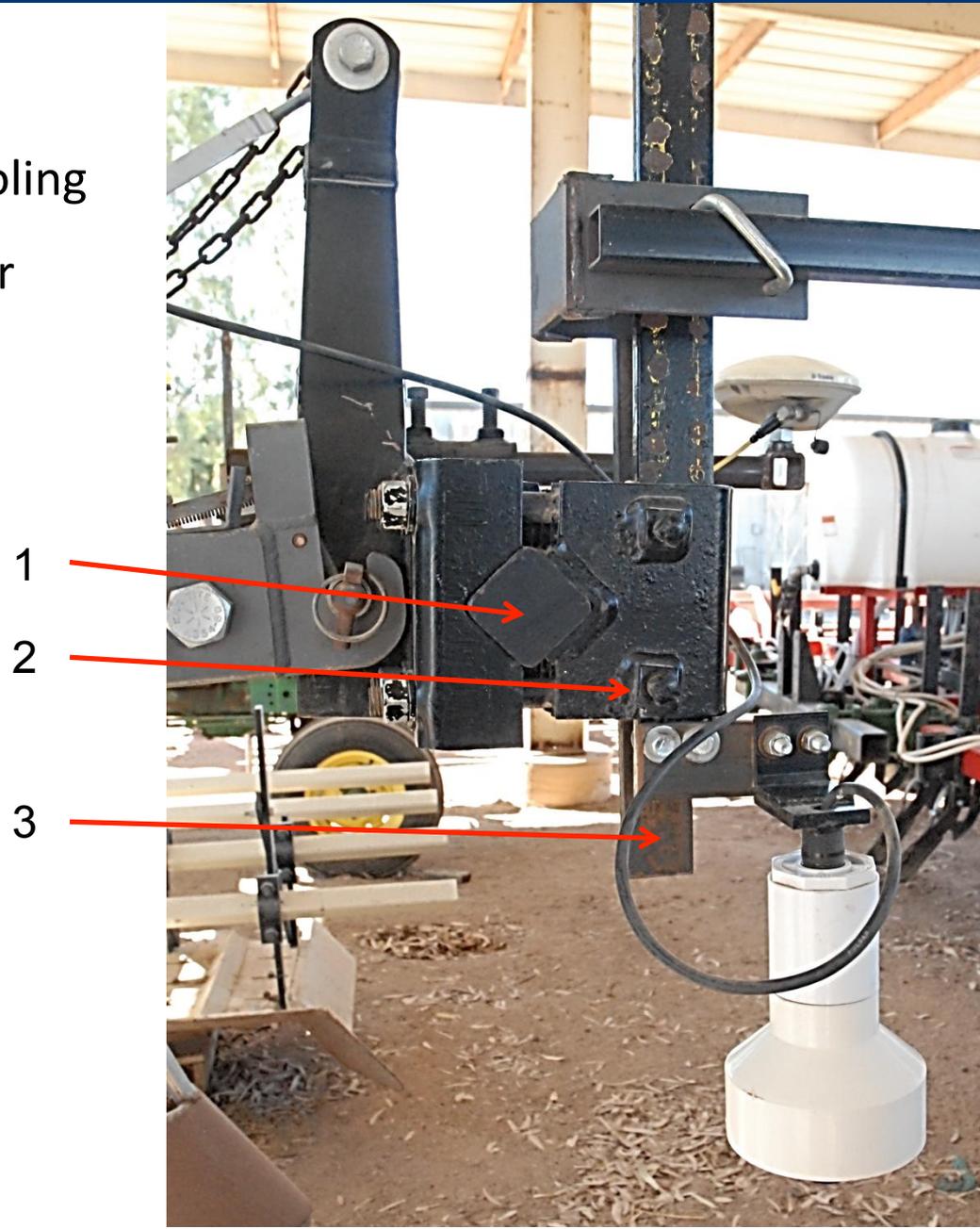




Frame adjustments

Sensor mounting using cultivation tooling

1. 2 ¼" agricultural diamond bar
2. Clamps w/ set bolts
3. Round and flat shanks



## Sensor position - vertical adjustment



## Sensor position - vertical adjustment



## Sensor position - front/back adjustment



## Sensor position - front/back adjustment



Sensor position – horizontal adjustment (rotation)



Sensor position – horizontal adjustment (rotation)



## Sensor adjustment – frame side-ways position



## Sensor adjustment – frame side-ways position



## Section 2: Instrumentation Hardware

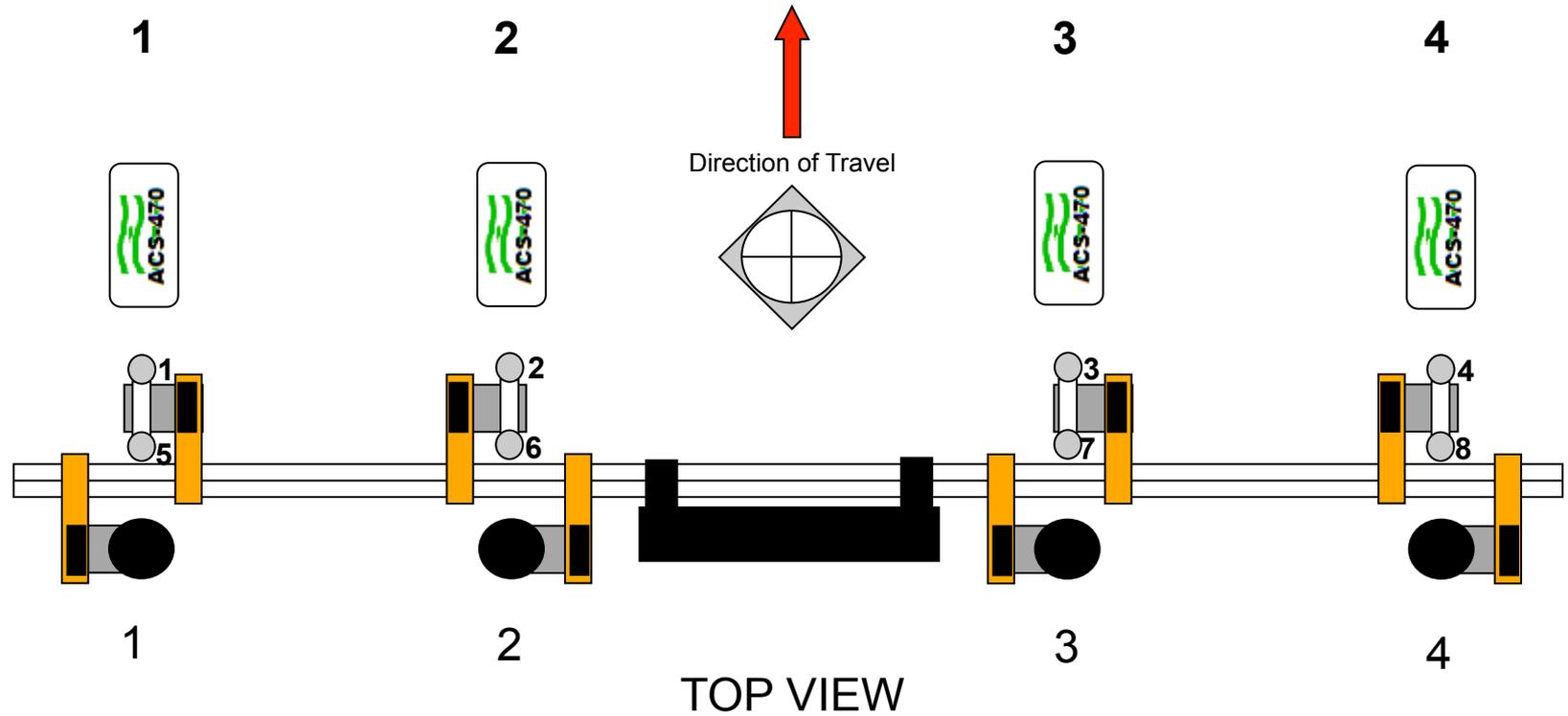
Proximal sensing approach to capture bio-physical characteristics of plants

- Thermal response
  - IRT
- Light reflectance
  - Active sensors
- Plant size
  - Displacement



Sensor selection: Critically important specs of sensors

- Communications protocol [i.e. serial (RS232, RS485, SDI-12), analog]
- Field of view
- Range of operation
- Input power
- Output format
- Response time
- Rugged design



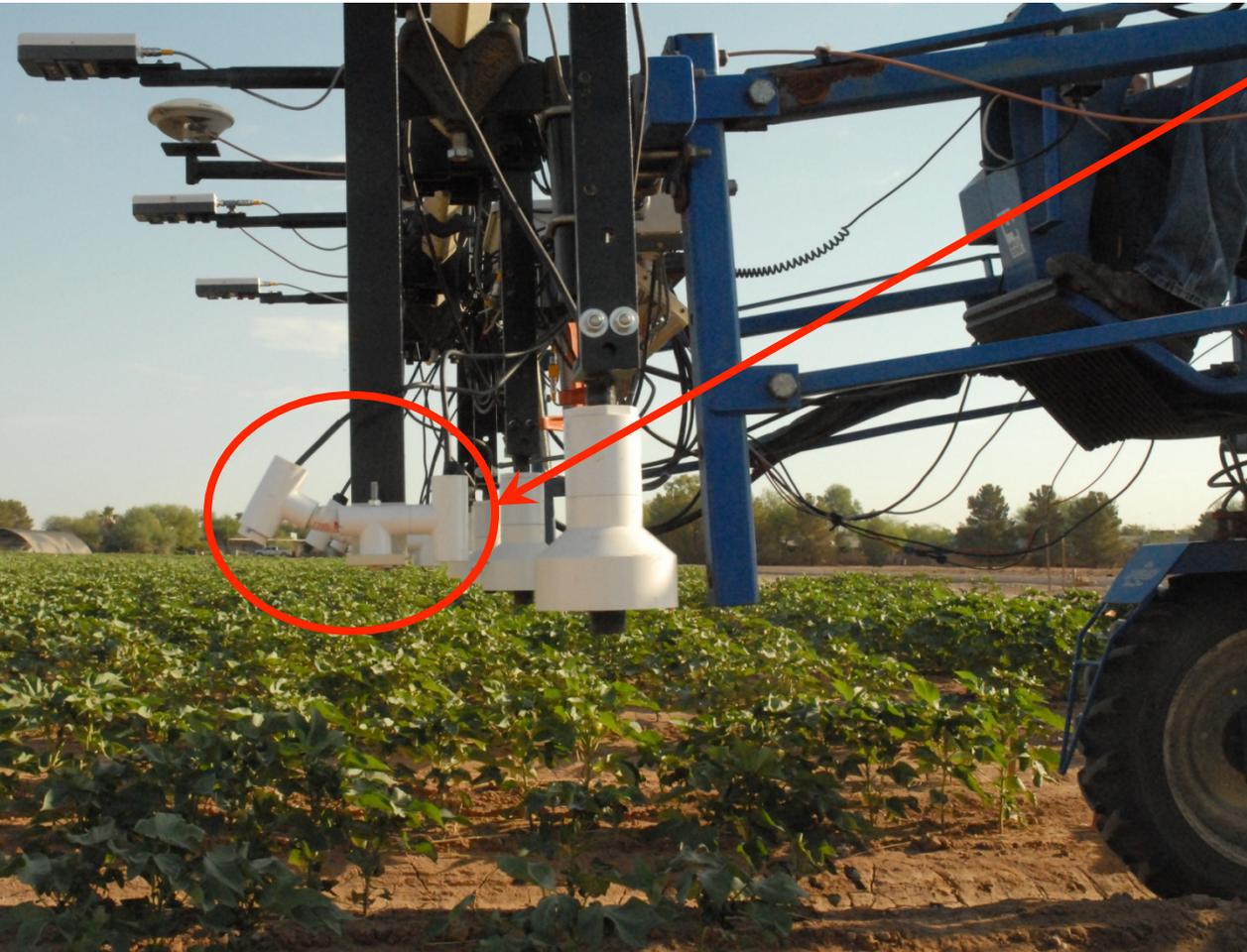
 = RTK Antenna

 = Sonar Transducer

 = IRT Mount

 = Crop Circle

## Plant canopy thermal response – IRT sensors



- Apogee SI-121 Infra-red radiometers
- 8-14  $\mu\text{m}$  window  
38° field of view
- Nadir and 30° orientation
- Analog signals
- Response time of “less than one second”

## Plant canopy spectral response – Light reflectance sensors



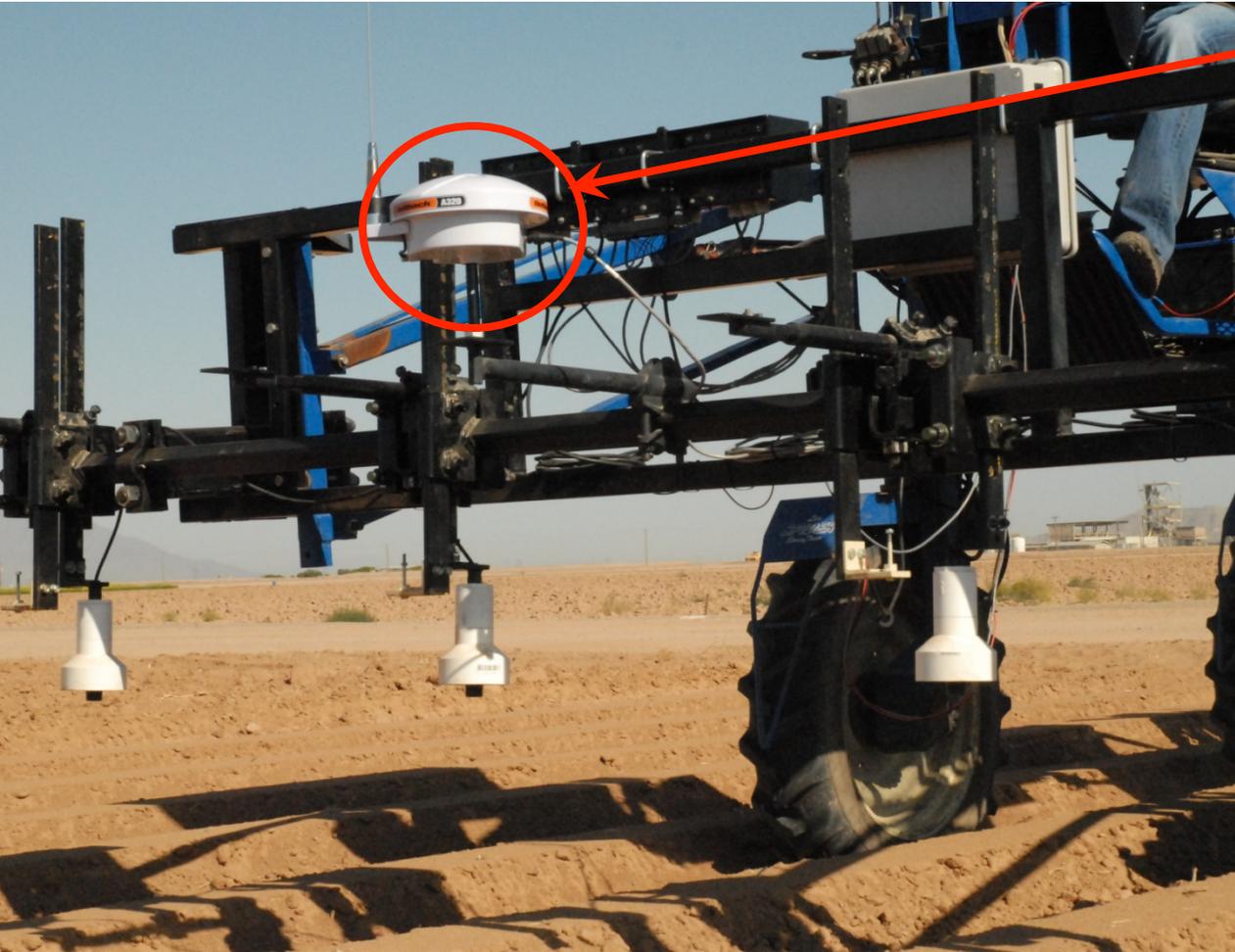
- Crop-Circle ACS-470 active-light sensors
- 32° field of view
- Three filters (670, 720, and 820nm)
- RS-485 network
- Fast update (5 Hz)\*

## Plant height – Displacement sensors



- Pulsar 3dB sonar
- Pulsed ultrasonic transceiver (125kHz)
- 12° beam angle
- Analog output
- Signal update is controlled internally (~ 2 Hz max)\*

## Horizontal/vertical position sensor – GPS



- Outback A320 GPS-RTK receiver (GNSS)
- Serial output
- NMEA GGA and RMC strings at 5 Hz
- Accuracy
  - ~ 1 cm horizontal
  - ~ 2 cm vertical

## Horizontal/vertical position sensor – GPS



## Trimble FMX multi-function display

**Autopilot GPS Status**

Position		AgGPS Autopilot Controller II Version: 5.14 (14 Oct 10) Serial Number: 4827124447 Vehicle: CASE IH MXU
DMS: 33° 4'39.12"N, 111°58'16.40"W, 358.075m		
ENU: 31.64658m, 104.77376m, 0.07406m		GPS Receiver: Internal Version: 2.11.010.4 hw:E FW Build date: Wed Sep 1 2010
Speed	2.98 mph	Corrections: RTK
Heading	180.3°	Radio: TNL900I
Satellites	9	Network ID: 20
GPS Quality	Fixed	SecureRTK: Inactive
Correction Age	1.3	Omni* ID: 120-0013737
H Error	0' 0.63"	

AgRemote    Log Serial    OK

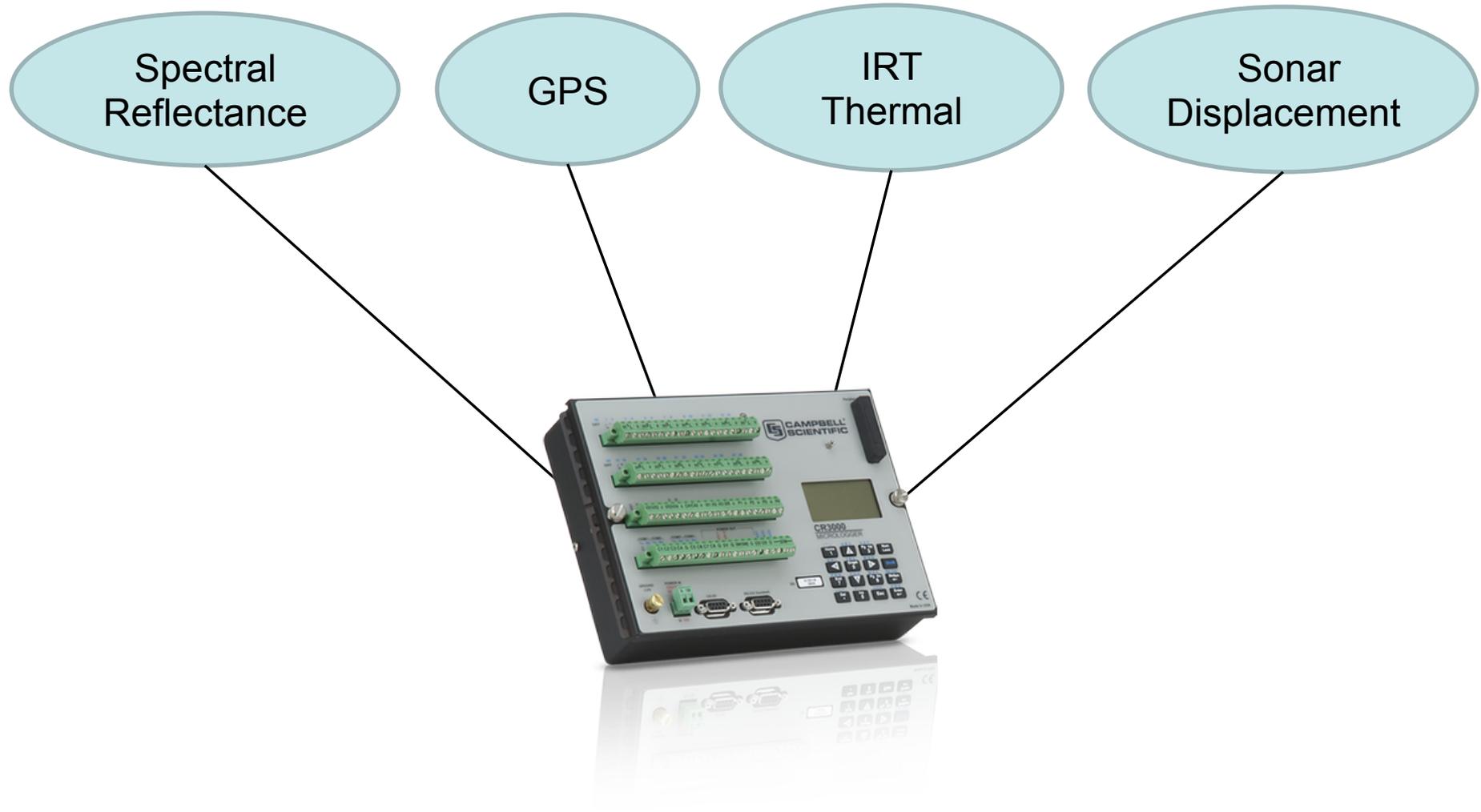
**GPS Output Settings**

Serial NMEA    NMEA Messages    CAN GPS

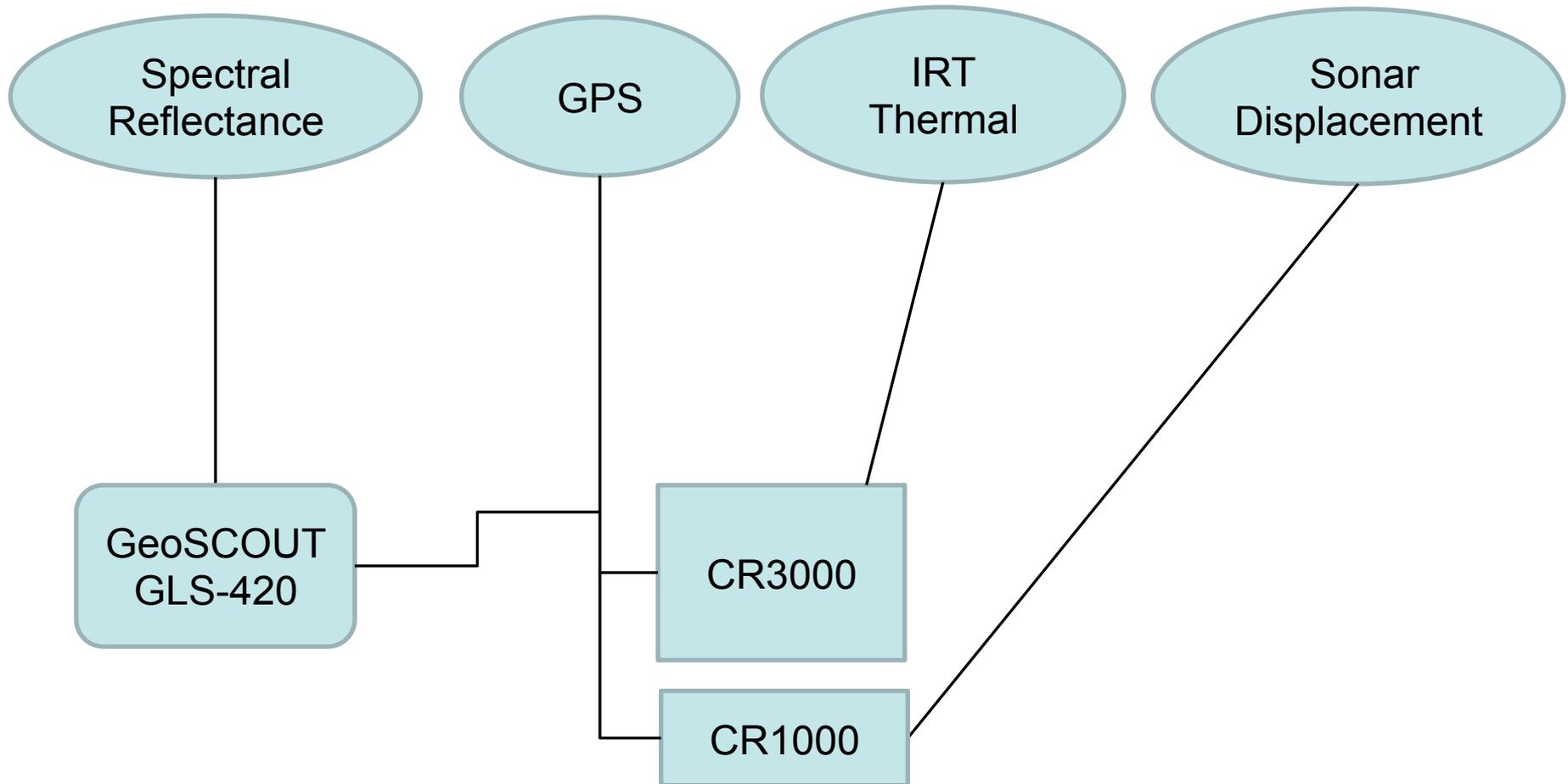
GGA	On
VTG	On
GSA	Off
GST	Off
RMC	On
ZDA	Off

Cancel    OK

## Section 3: System Integration

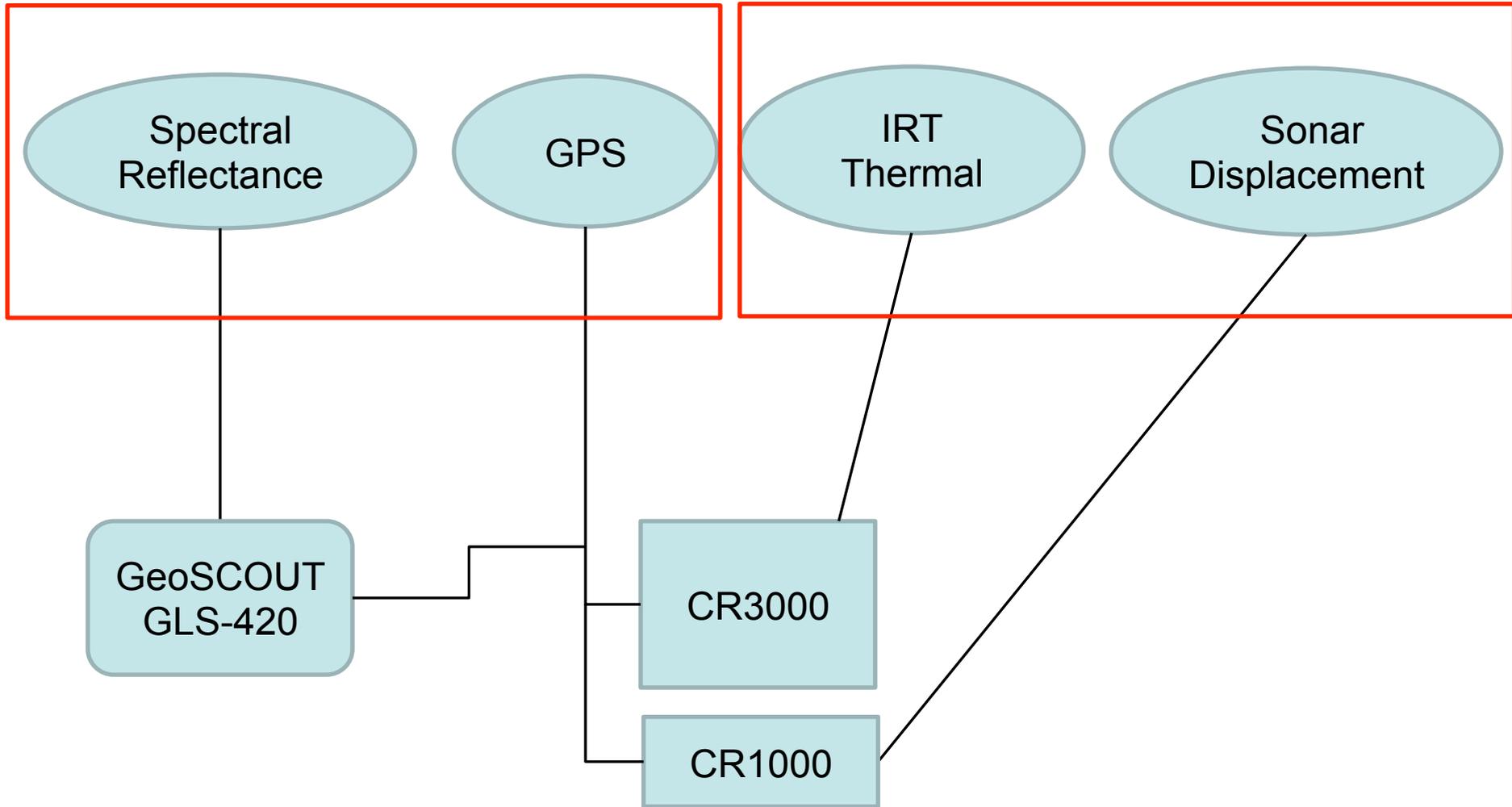


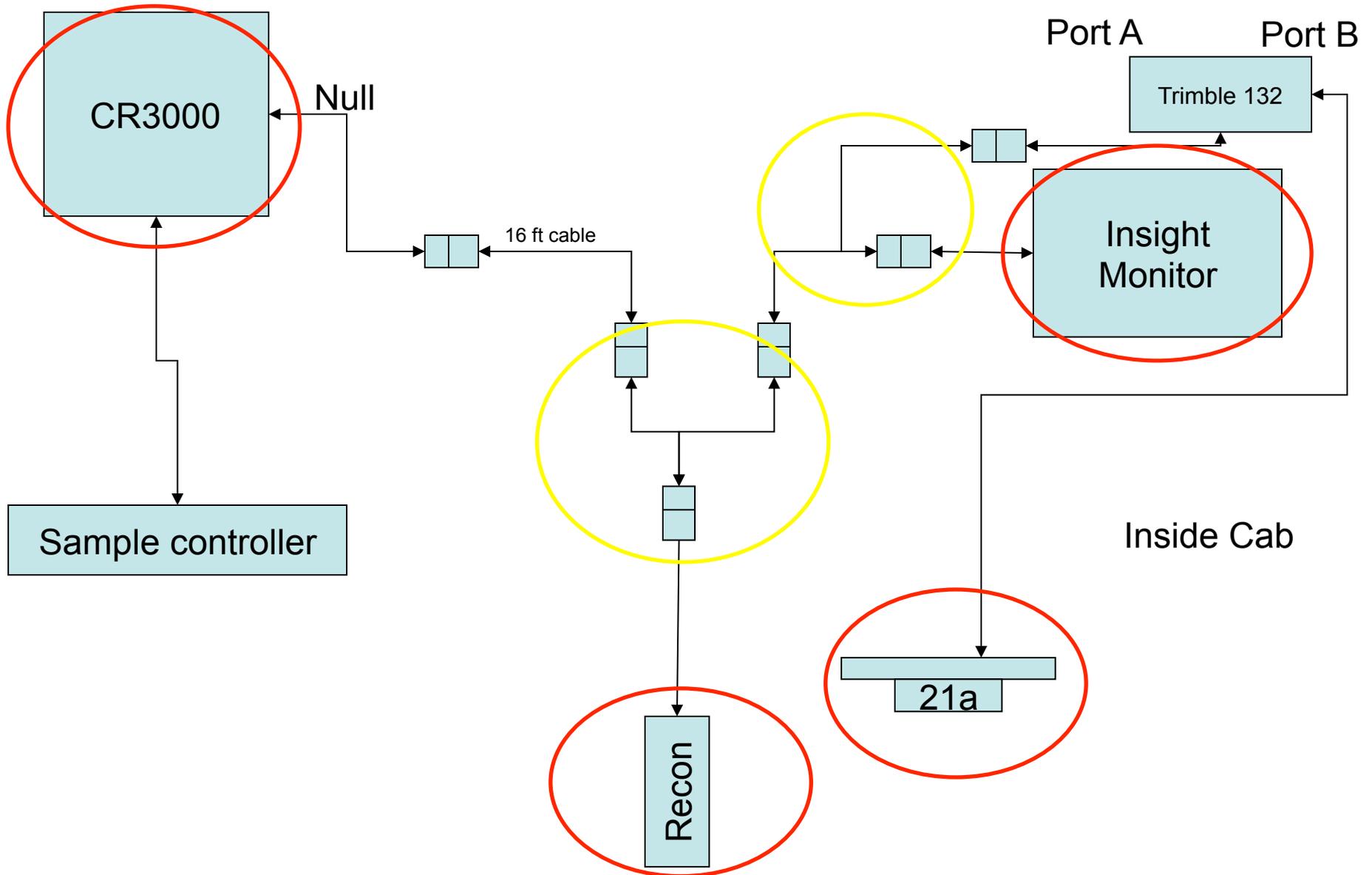
## System diagram

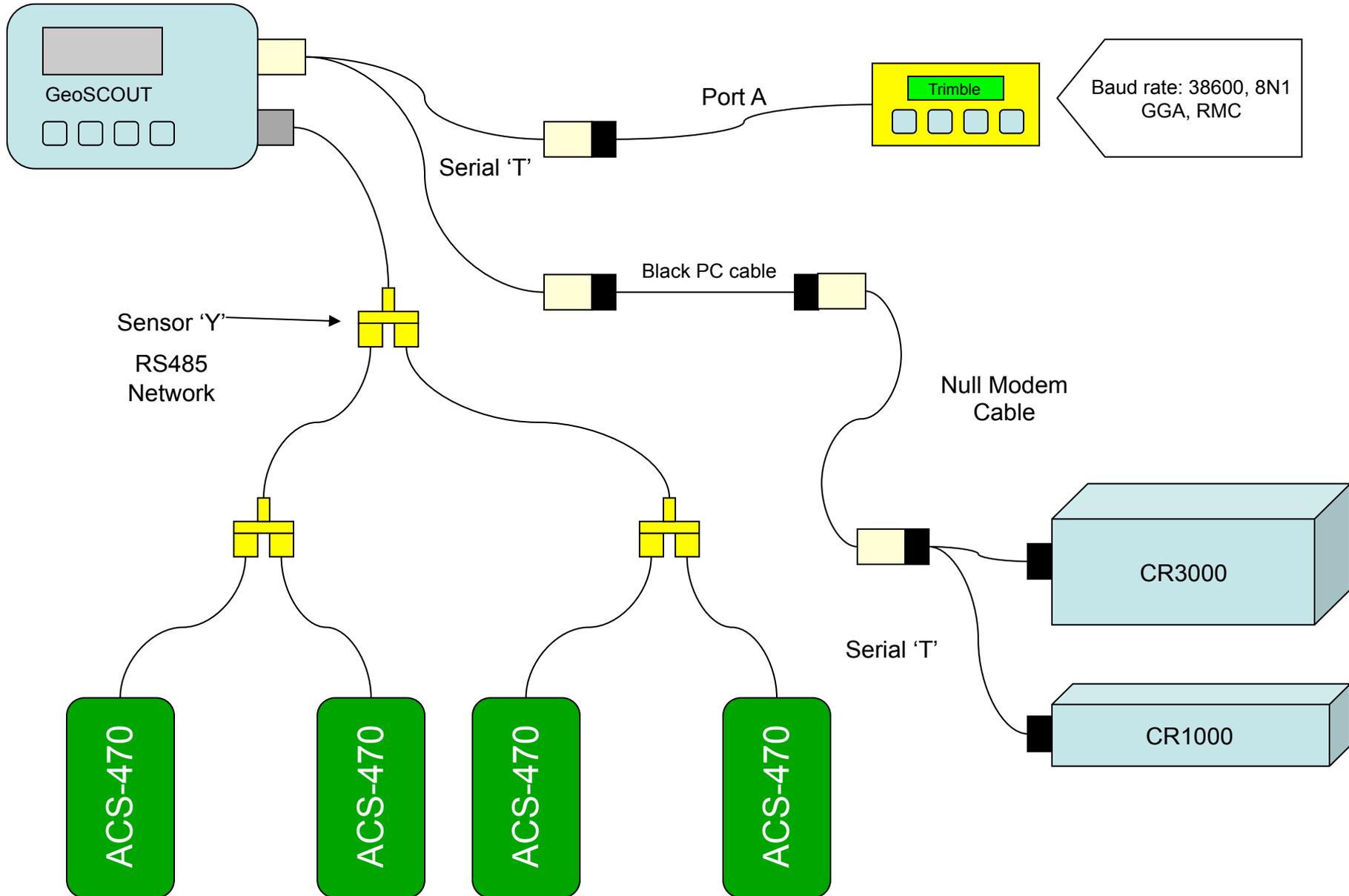


## Serial Outputs

## Analog Outputs



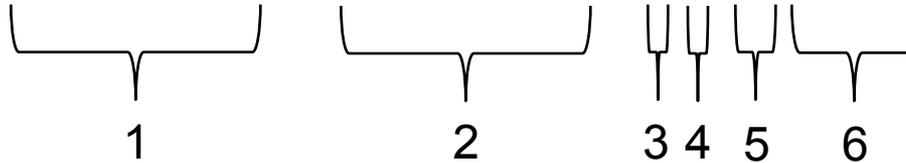




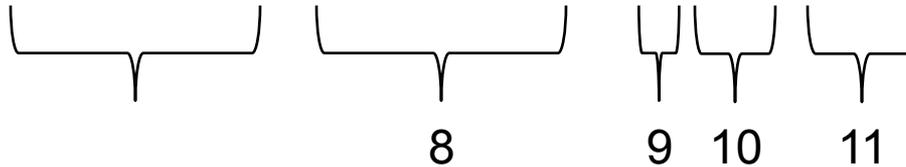
## NMEA string data - <http://www.gpsinformation.org>

- Useful pieces of information in common strings

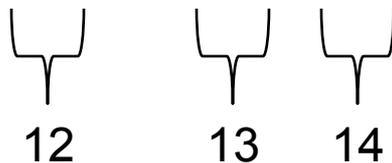
\$GPGGA,195124.76,3304.42373723,N,11158.33254617,W,4,12,0.9,358.878,M,-27.208,M,0.4,0000\*77



\$GPRMC,195124,A,3304.42373723,N,11158.33254617,W,1.7,311.1,181013,12.1,E\*5E

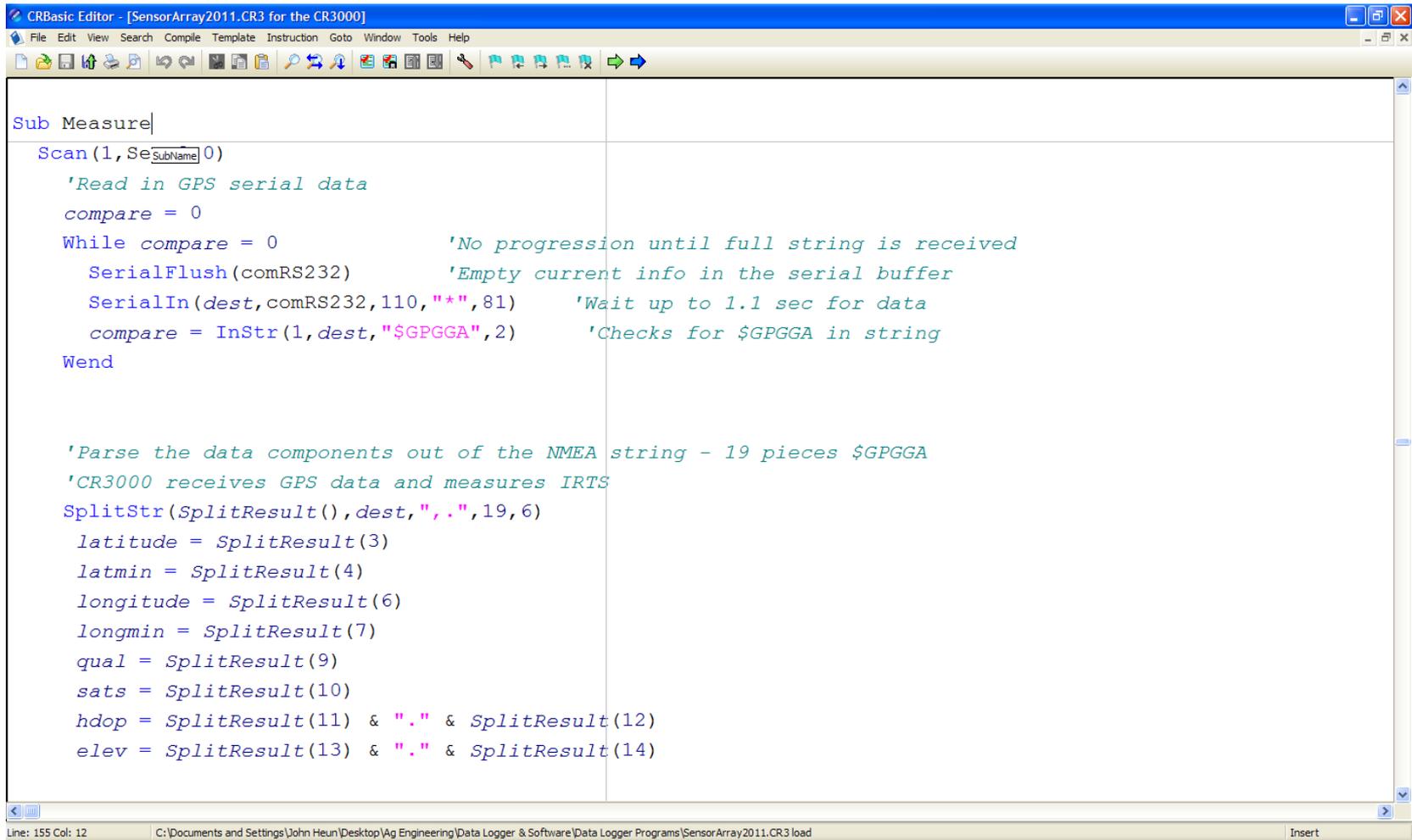


\$GPVTG,311.1,T,,M,1.65,N,3.06,K\*65



- Latitude ddmm.mmmmmmmm
- Longitude dddmm.mmmmmmmm
- Quality 2=DGPS, 4=RTK
- # Satellites
- Horizontal Dilution of Precision HDOP
- Elevation, in meters
- Latitude ddmm.mmmmmmmm
- Longitude dddmm.mmmmmmmm
- Speed, in knots
- Direction in degrees, in reference to geographic north
- Date, day/month/year
- Direction in degrees, in reference to geographic north
- Speed, in knots
- Speed, in m/s

- CRBasic code example
  - Collects string data and parses to preserve GPS precision



```

CRBasic Editor - [SensorArray2011.CR3 for the CR3000]
File Edit View Search Compile Template Instruction Goto Window Tools Help
Sub Measure|
Scan(1,SeSubName)0)
  'Read in GPS serial data
  compare = 0
  While compare = 0          'No progression until full string is received
    SerialFlush(comRS232)    'Empty current info in the serial buffer
    SerialIn(dest,comRS232,110,"*",81)  'Wait up to 1.1 sec for data
    compare = InStr(1,dest,"$GPGGA",2)  'Checks for $GPGGA in string
  Wend

  'Parse the data components out of the NMEA string - 19 pieces $GPGGA
  'CR3000 receives GPS data and measures IRTS
  SplitStr(SplitResult(),dest,".",19,6)
  latitude = SplitResult(3)
  latmin = SplitResult(4)
  longitude = SplitResult(6)
  longmin = SplitResult(7)
  qual = SplitResult(9)
  sats = SplitResult(10)
  hdop = SplitResult(11) & "." & SplitResult(12)
  elev = SplitResult(13) & "." & SplitResult(14)
    
```

Line: 155 Col: 12      C:\Documents and Settings\John Heun\Desktop\Ag Engineering\Data Logger & Software\Data Logger Programs\SensorArray2011.CR3 load      Insert

## Campbell CR1000 sampling at 5Hz

TOA5		39656CR1000			39656d.21		CPU: 2011wheat CR1000.St PlantHeight .CR1		57500Table1							
TIMESTAMP	RECORD	Son_Displa cement	Las_Displa cement	SonarSig_ Avg	LaserSig_A vg	latitude	latmin	longitude	longmin	elev	elevfrac	qual	sats	hdop		
TS	RN	mm Smp	mm Smp	mV Avg	Avg	DDMM Smp	m Smp	DDDMM Smp	.mmmmmm Smp	Elev	m Smp	dec m Smp	quality Smp	sv Smp	hdop Smp	
3/1/2013 12:00:24	71	669	939	466.5	946	3303	59824276	11158	57281148	362.697	362	697	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:24	72	681.6	912	475.3	918	3303	59824192	11158	57281116	362.691	362	691	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:24	73	681.6	886	475.3	892	3303	59824356	11158	57280872	362.688	362	688	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:24	74	681.6	849	475.3	854	3303	59824320	11158	57280804	362.691	362	691	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:24	75	998	891	696	897	3303	59824332	11158	57281056	362.691	362	691	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:25	76	998	888	696	894	3303	59824412	11158	57281216	362.695	362	695	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:25	77	998	889	696	895	3303	59824408	11158	57280856	362.691	362	691	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:25	78	671.9	962	468.5	968	3303	59824416	11158	57280676	362.688	362	688	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:25	79	670.9	937	467.8	944	3303	59824304	11158	57281004	362.694	362	694	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:25	80	671.9	890	468.5	896	3303	59824344	11158	57281040	362.696	362	696	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:26	81	670.9	888	467.8	894	3303	59824320	11158	57280964	362.695	362	695	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:26	82	670.9	887	467.8	893	3303	59824144	11158	57281012	362.702	362	702	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:26	83	671.9	888	468.5	894	3303	59824348	11158	57281168	362.696	362	696	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:26	84	671.9	889	468.5	895	3303	59824516	11158	57280928	362.695	362	695	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:26	85	671.9	891	468.5	897	3303	59823516	11158	57280816	362.715	362	715	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:27	86	671.9	883	468.5	889	3303	59820628	11158	57280796	362.729	362	729	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:27	87	670.9	922	467.8	928	3303	59816824	11158	57280868	362.68	362	680	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:27	88	854	962	595.8	968	3303	59812024	11158	57283132	362.717	362	717	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:27	89	854	955	595.8	961	3303	59806880	11158	57285528	362.697	362	697	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:27	90	854	977	595.8	984	3303	59801704	11158	57286004	362.703	362	703	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:28	91	867	928	604.6	934	3303	59796028	11158	57285932	362.707	362	707	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:28	92	867	919	604.6	925	3303	59790128	11158	57284412	362.703	362	703	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:28	93	867	997	604.6	1003	3303	59784880	11158	57282368	362.714	362	714	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:28	94	881	1006	614.1	1013	3303	59779356	11158	57281980	362.707	362	707	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:28	95	881	1017	614.1	1024	3303	59774272	11158	57281776	362.726	362	726	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:29	96	881	978	614.1	985	3303	59769316	11158	57283408	362.718	362	718	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:29	97	875	933	610	939	3303	59763948	11158	57284244	362.704	362	704	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:29	98	875	904	610	911	3303	59758732	11158	57284660	362.735	362	735	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:29	99	875	1007	610	1014	3303	59753764	11158	57283736	362.709	362	709	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:29	100	875	1057	610	1064	3303	59748992	11158	57283632	362.701	362	701	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:30	101	849	985	591.7	992	3303	59744332	11158	57283508	362.714	362	714	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:30	102	849	917	591.7	923	3303	59739712	11158	57282504	362.665	362	665	4	10	0.9	

8 digits of precision preserved  
as a 'Long' data type

Quality (4=RTK)

# of satellites

## Campbell CR1000 sampling at 5Hz

TOA5		39656CR1000			39656d.21		CPU: 2011wheat CR1000.St PlantHeight .CR1		57500Table1							
TIMESTAMP	RECORD	Son_Displa cement	Las_Displa cement	SonarSig_ Avg	LaserSig_A vg	latitude	latmin	longitude	longmin	elev	elevfrac	qual	sats	hdop		
TS	RN	mm Smp	mm Smp	mV Avg	Avg	DDMM Smp	m Smp	DDMM Smp	.mmmmmm Smp	m Smp	dec m Smp	quality Smp	sv Smp	hdop Smp		
3/1/2013 12:00:24	71	669	939	466.5	946	3303	59824276	11158	57281148	362.697	362	697	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:24	72	681.6	912	475.3	918	3303	59824192	11158	57281116	362.691	362	691	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:24	73	681.6	886	475.3	892	3303	59824356	11158	57280872	362.688	362	688	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:24	74	681.6	849	475.3	854	3303	59824320	11158	57280804	362.691	362	691	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:24	75	998	891	696	897	3303	59824332	11158	57281056	362.691	362	691	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:25	76	998	888	696	894	3303	59824412	11158	57281216	362.695	362	695	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:25	77	998	889	696	895	3303	59824408	11158	57280856	362.691	362	691	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:25	78	671.9	962	468.5	968	3303	59824416	11158	57280676	362.688	362	688	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:25	79	670.9	937	467.8	944	3303	59824304	11158	57281004	362.694	362	694	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:25	80	671.9	890	468.5	896	3303	59824344	11158	57281040	362.696	362	696	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:26	81	670.9	888	467.8	894	3303	59824320	11158	57280964	362.695	362	695	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:26	82	670.9	887	467.8	893	3303	59824144	11158	57281012	362.702	362	702	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:26	83	671.9	888	468.5	894	3303	59824348	11158	57281168	362.696	362	696	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:26	84	671.9	889	468.5	895	3303	59824516	11158	57280928	362.695	362	695	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:26	85	671.9	891	468.5	897	3303	59823516	11158	57280816	362.715	362	715	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:27	86	671.9	883	468.5	889	3303	59820628	11158	57280796	362.729	362	729	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:27	87	670.9	922	467.8	928	3303	59816824	11158	57280868	362.68	362	680	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:27	88	854	962	595.8	968	3303	59812024	11158	57283132	362.717	362	717	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:27	89	854	955	595.8	961	3303	59806880	11158	57285528	362.697	362	697	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:27	90	854	977	595.8	984	3303	59801704	11158	57286004	362.703	362	703	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:28	91	867	928	604.6	934	3303	59796028	11158	57285932	362.707	362	707	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:28	92	867	919	604.6	925	3303	59790128	11158	57284412	362.703	362	703	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:28	93	867	997	604.6	1003	3303	59784880	11158	57282368	362.714	362	714	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:28	94	881	1006	614.1	1013	3303	59779356	11158	57281980	362.707	362	707	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:28	95	881	1017	614.1	1024	3303	59774272	11158	57281776	362.726	362	726	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:29	96	881	978	614.1	985	3303	59769316	11158	57283408	362.718	362	718	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:29	97	875	933	610	939	3303	59763948	11158	57284244	362.704	362	704	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:29	98	875	904	610	911	3303	59758732	11158	57284660	362.735	362	735	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:29	99	875	1007	610	1014	3303	59753764	11158	57283736	362.709	362	709	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:29	100	875	1057	610	1064	3303	59748992	11158	57283632	362.701	362	701	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:30	101	849	985	591.7	992	3303	59744332	11158	57283508	362.714	362	714	4	10	0.9	
3/1/2013 12:00:30	102	849	917	591.7	923	3303	59739712	11158	57282504	362.665	362	665	4	10	0.9	

Sonar updating ASAP ~ 3Hz

Laser updating at 20Hz

## Integration considerations:

- Rugged, field ready equipment- solid state HDs/memory cards, vibration proof
- Number of channels- (analog, digital, serial, pulse and frequency measurements)
- Scan rate and sensor response time
- Synchronize with GPS
- Use sensors with analog outputs: 0-20mA current loops or voltage
- Keep program calculations to a minimum. Save complex calculations/analysis for post processing when possible.
- Number of people to operate systems - driver should have minimal distractions

1. Flexible design
  - Existing equipment and materials
  - Pre-fabricated, interchangeable components
  - Applied to different settings – both research and production
2. Electronic systems integration:
  - Research sensor specs carefully
  - Keep it simple
3. Work in progress:
  - Low-cost platforms (Jeff W.)
  - Lidar 3-D (Andy F.)

**Our work in proximal sensing of cotton has been possible by the financial support of CottonInc.**



**Please fill out the survey  
evaluation.  
You will be contacted via email.**

**Today's Presentation, Sample Data, and Links Available**  
<http://www.extension.org/pages/68269>

**Sign up for PBG News**  
<http://pbgworks.org>

**Sign up for Future Webinars and View Archive**  
<http://www.extension.org/pages/60426>

