



Search and Shine

Project Design Review | SS24 ECE Capstone

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Electrical & Computer
ENGINEERING

Use Case

- A search and aid **drone** application that can **autonomously** locate people needing help and shine a **spotlight** on them
 - Our project will use a laser over a spotlight to demonstrate accurate target tracking
- Manually searching for people in disastrous remote areas is **inefficient, expensive, and error-prone**
- ECE Areas: Software Systems, Signals and Systems



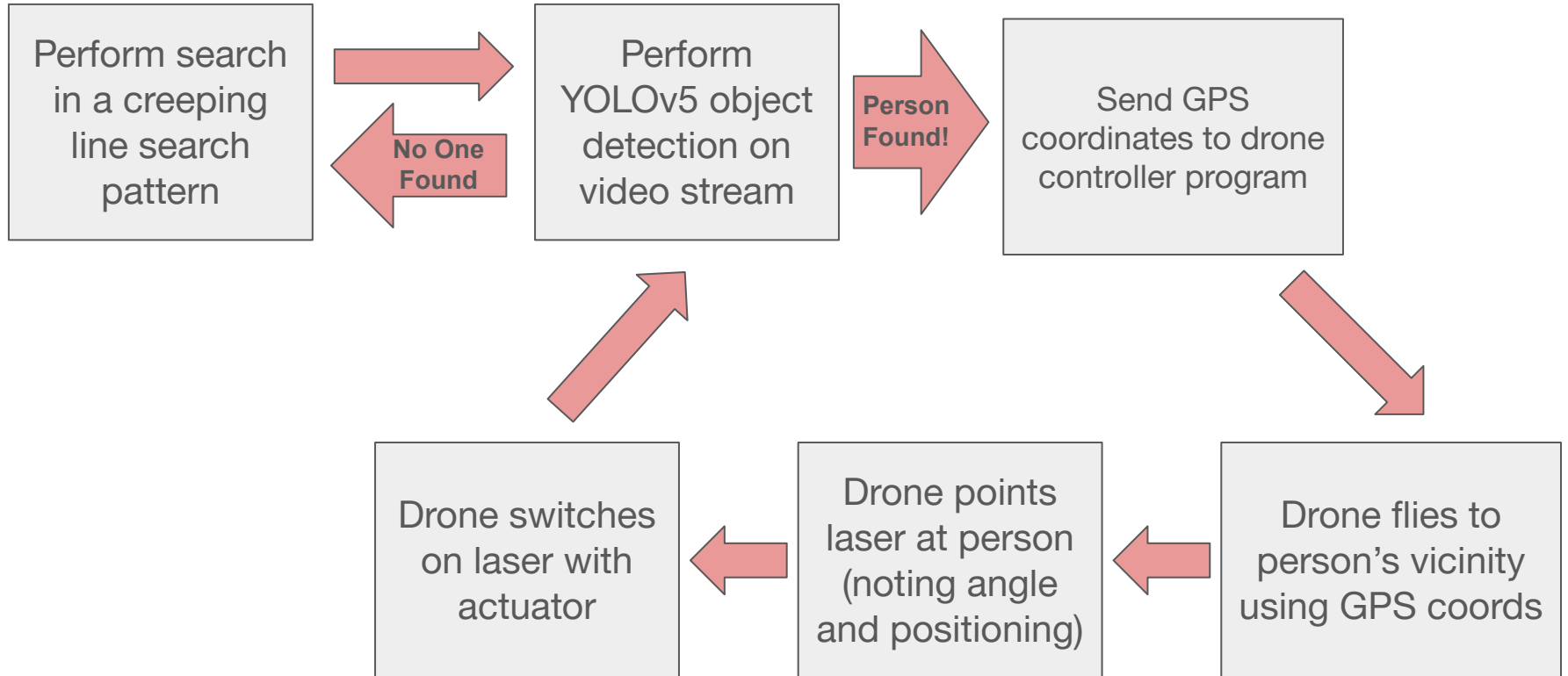
Source: <https://drones.wfp.org/index.php/activities>

Design Requirements

#01 Accurately identify humans in a landscape, and track them	#02 Autonomously comb a landscape inexpensively	#03 Report findings through web-app efficiently
Top-1 Accuracy: > 80% Top-5 Accuracy: > 90%	Visual inspection of images and drone to see if entire arena is covered	Latency of detection, data routing, and result processing: < 5s
Ability to detect humans in different positions (standing, sitting, covered): 90% acc. in GPS coords by server Ability to track humans with the laser	Receive and go to specific coordinates	API built in web application to display where the drone and people are
Offset between laser and actual human: ± 1 feet	Cost effectiveness: <\$300	Speedup over sequential YOLOv5 algorithm: 5x

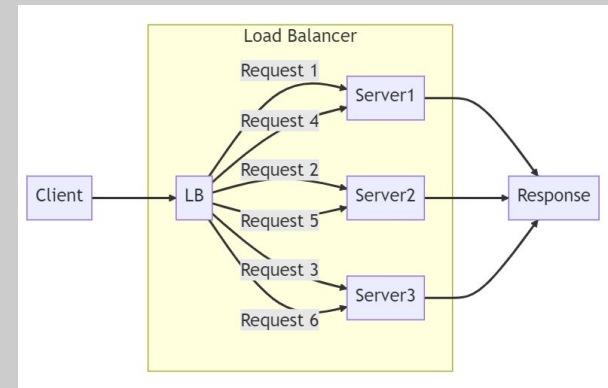
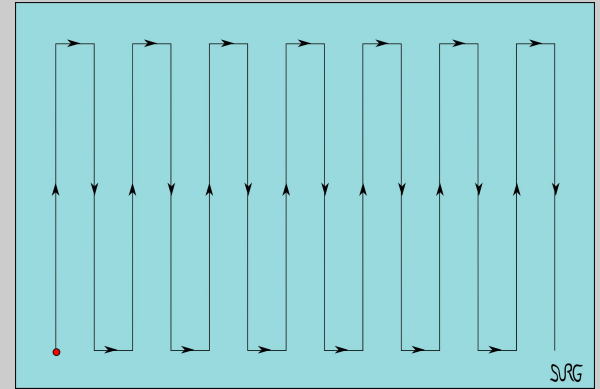


Solution Approach



Justifications for Solution

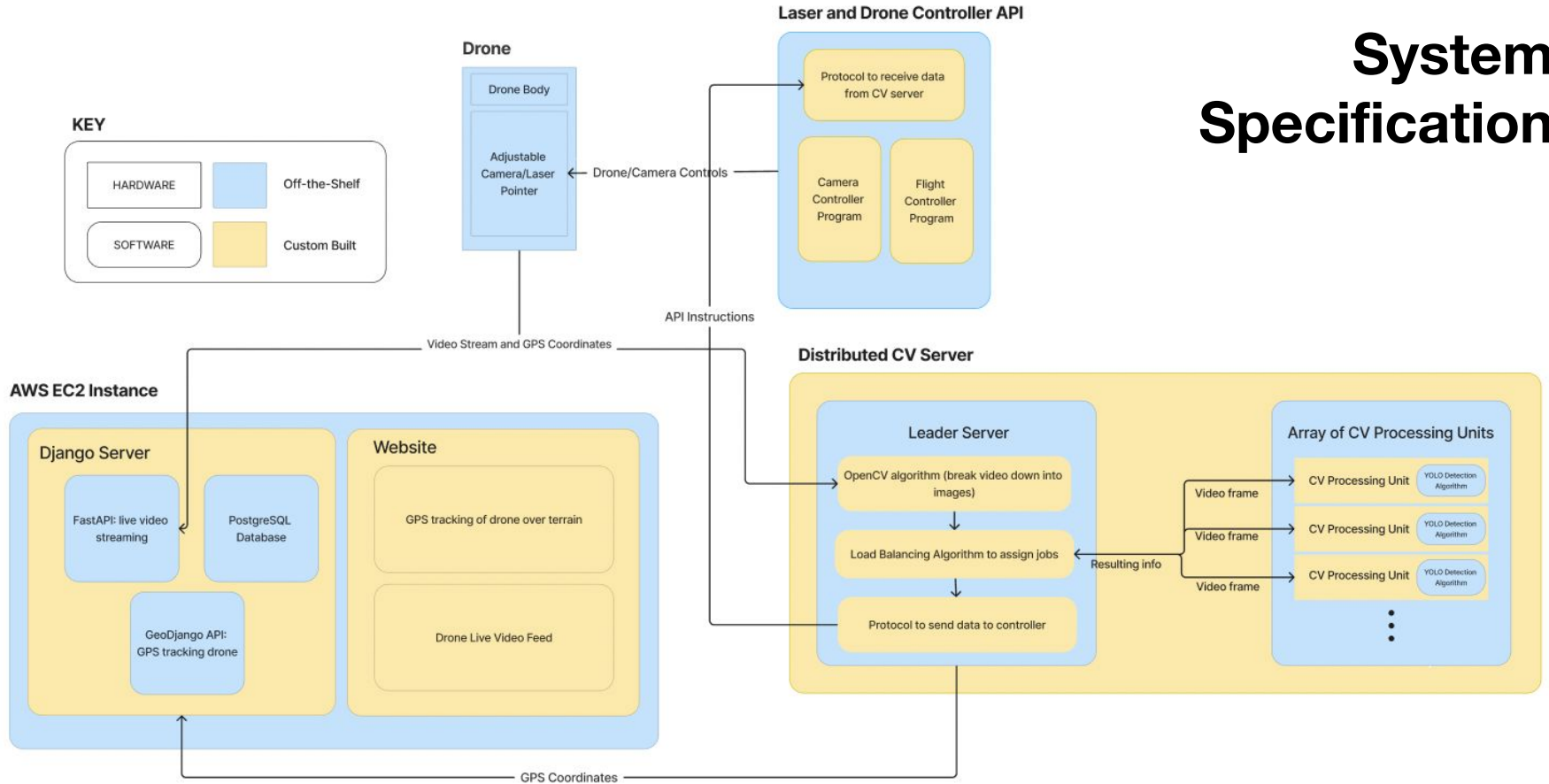
- **Creeping line search** can comb an area efficiently and thoroughly
- **Load Balancing** Algorithms to speed up YOLOv5 algorithm and distribute tasks
- **Public Safety Considerations:** Greater health protection for individuals in need
- **Social Factors:** Providing aid without discrimination and protection for workers
- **Economic Considerations:** Cost effectiveness and less need for manual intervention



Sources:

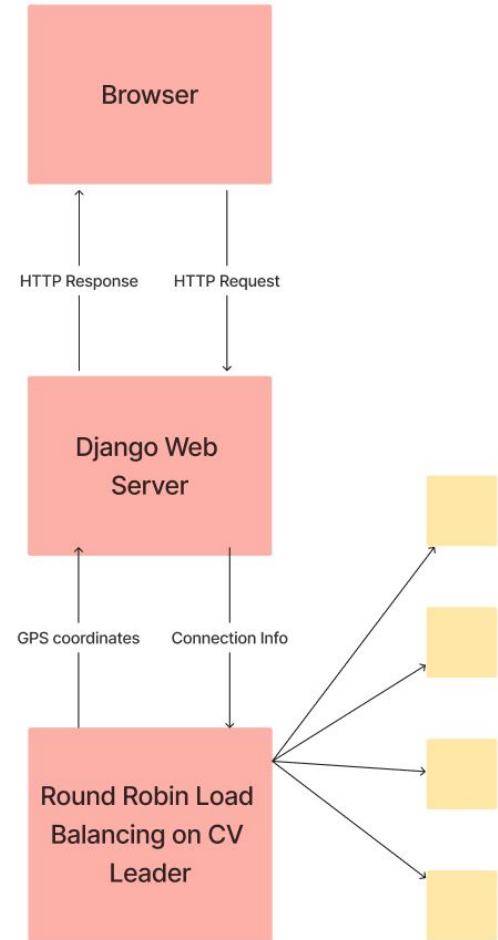
- https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Creeping_line_search_pattern.png
- <https://medium.com/javarevisited/load-balancing-algorithms-that-can-be-used-in-java-applications-6f605d1bf19>

System Specification



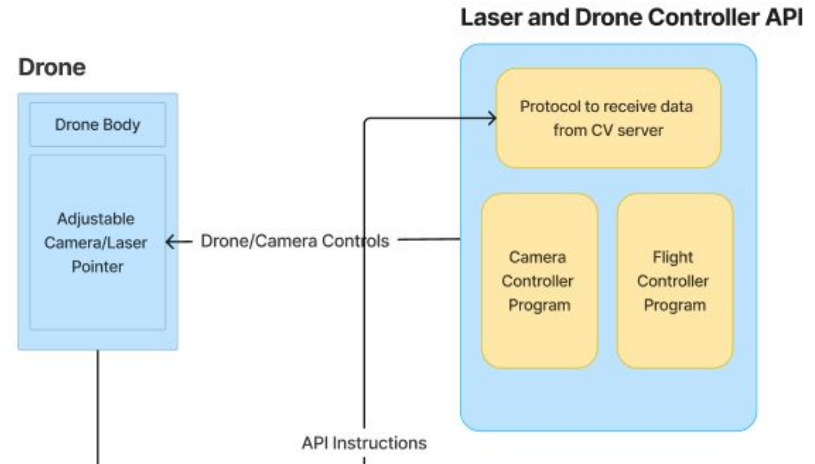
Implementation Plan: Server and Web Application

- Browser communicates with **Django** web server to fetch info like GPS coordinates
- **OAuth** and **SMS verification** for secure login to website
- Custom-made **Round Robin** load balancing runs on CV leader node and distributes tasks to CV nodes
- **OpenCV** on CV leader to break video down into frames
- **YOLOv5** object detection algorithm runs on CV nodes (<https://github.com/danhilltech/goyolov5>)

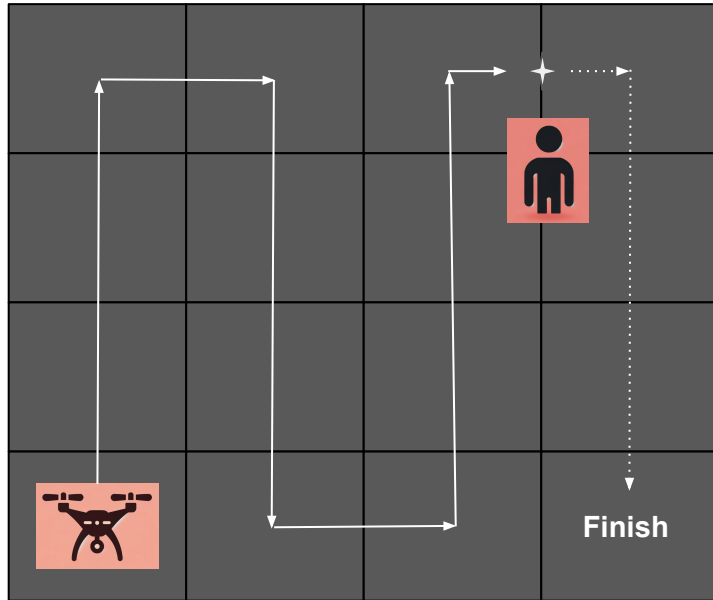


Implementation Plan - Drone and Laser (and API)

- Drone has software API (Mavlink protocol), an adjustable camera, and a GPIO.
 - In discussion with Prof. Basti Scherer
- Flight control prog uses software API to control **movement**.
- Camera control prog uses software API to control the camera **AND** the laser
 - Laser is strapped onto the camera
 - On/off is controlled through the GPIO
 - Actuator-controlled switch
 - Must be *light* and *energy efficient*



Scenario Testing Setup



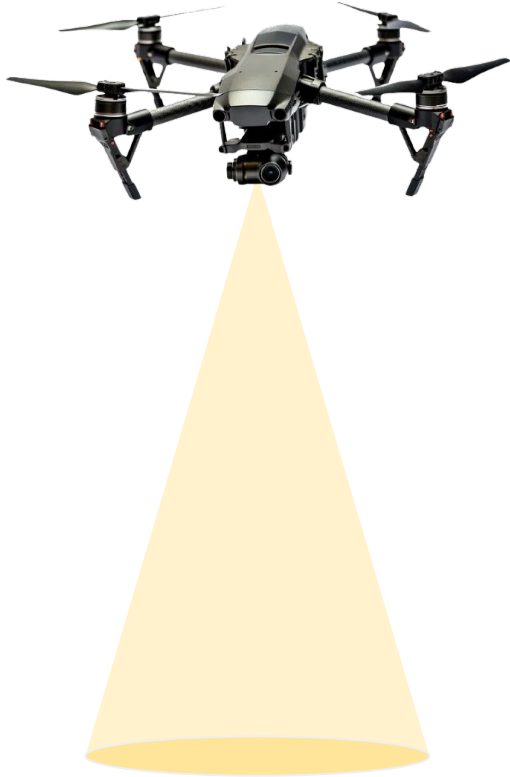
- Drone Arena Scaife Hall (20' x 20')
- Black Foam Tiling
- Arena divided into grid
- Additional Obstructions (balls, plants, jackets -> obstruct view of drone)
- Detect person on flight path and spotlight them
- Future tests: person moves after being pointed at; laser follows

Testing, Verification, and Metrics

Requirements	Testing	Metrics
Accurately identify humans in a flat landscape	Unit test images of people in different flat environments, body parts hidden, multiple people	Top-1 Accuracy: > 80% Top-5 Accuracy: > 90%
Autonomous flight control	Checkpoint tests of creeping search and targeted coord movement	Can fly in pre-specified pattern, and correctly navigate to laser-pointing position if person found (± 3 feet)
Low latency	Time taken to send, process, and receive flight and video data	Latency of detection, data routing, and result processing: < 5s
Point light to person's GPS location	Comparison tests between person's actual coords vs laser-pointed coords vs calculated coords using altitude and scraping video frame data	Offset in person location and GPS calculation: ± 1 feet Offset in person location and laser-pointed location: ± 1 feet
Power consumption	Flight time of drone with and without laser + actuator attachment	Maintain <5 minute loss of flight time when searching



Alternative Approach: Fixed Spotlight



- Pointing a laser at a target requires very high precision (distance amplifies error)
- Goal of search and shine can still be maintained on a simpler level with a “UFO” approach
 - Drone now flies directly above target
 - Metric: ± 1 feet
 - Laser is strapped onto the drone
 - On/off is still controlled through the GPIO
 - Actuator-controlled switch
 - Must be light and energy efficient

