



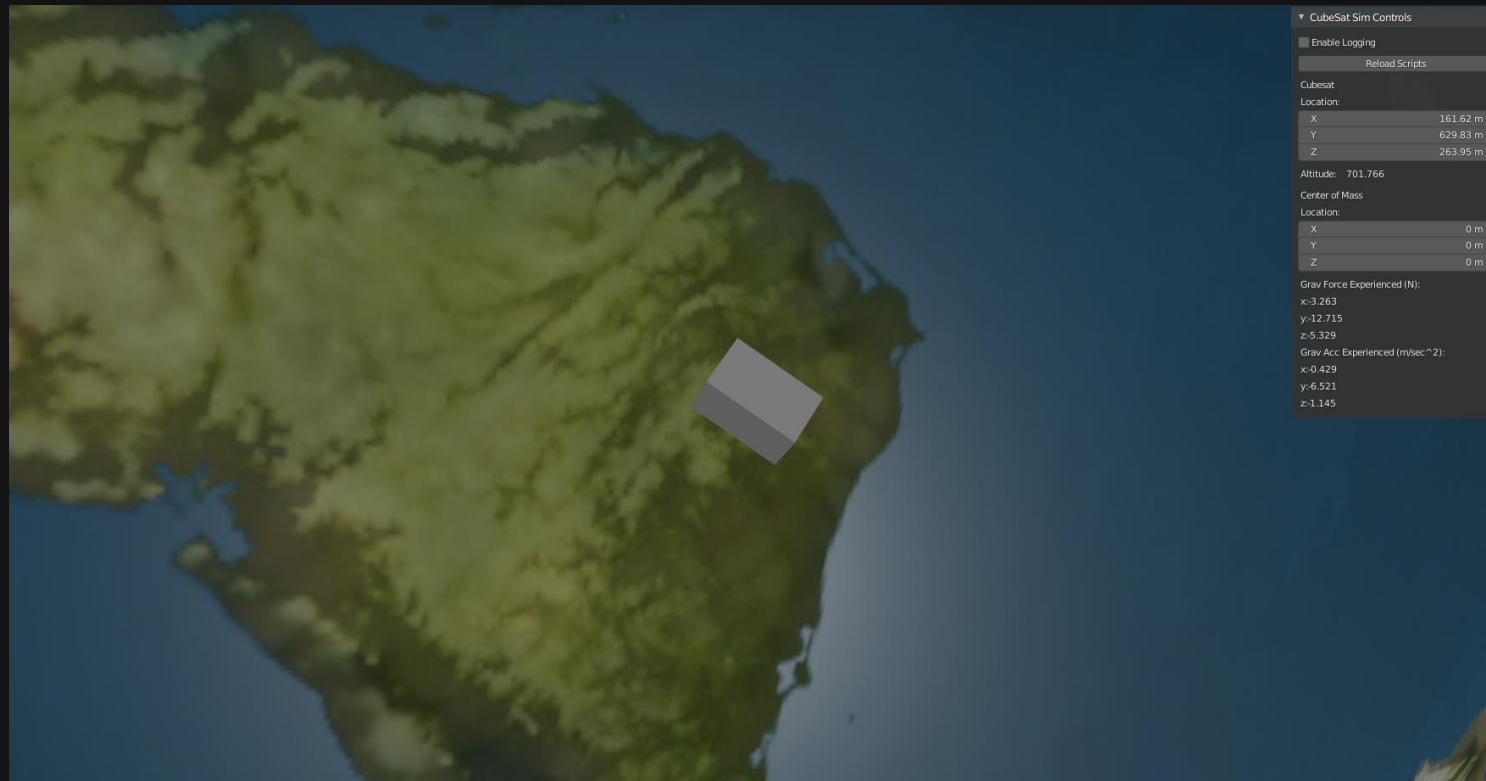
A Novel Approach to an Autonomous and Dynamic Satellite Control System Using On-Orbit Machine Learning

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Nicholas Shewchuk, Ashley McBean, Tarek Elsharhawy**

Objectives



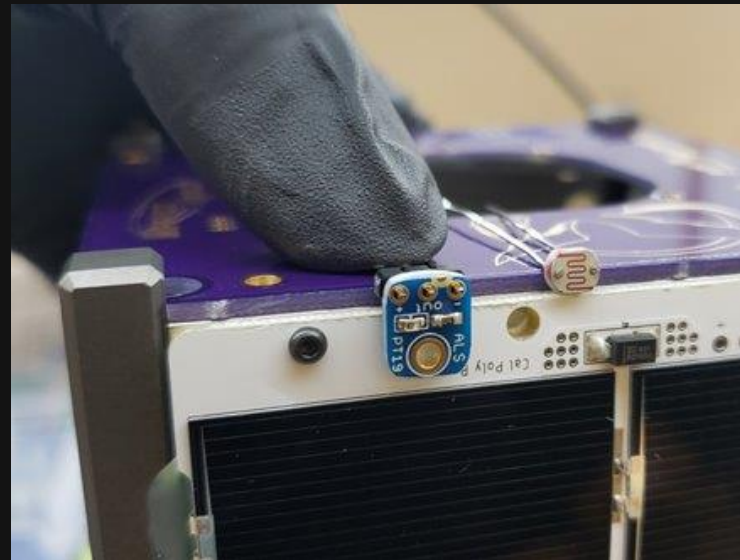
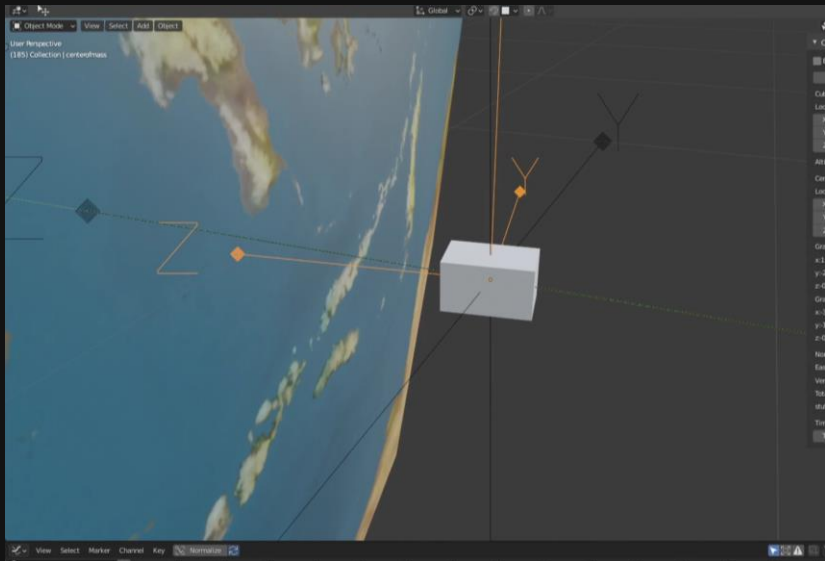
- Purpose is to create a machine learning friendly environment for virtual missions



Objectives



- Requires kinematics simulation, sensor simulation, and TensorFlow integration



Objectives



- Simulator is built off the Blender 3D animation system
- Uses a series of custom Python scripts



Simulation Environment: Blender UI



- Open source and built with Python
- Open to modification
- Pre-existing documentation and community
- Easy to create additions
- Designed to ease development



Simulation Environment: Custom UI

- Mainly within existing UI panel
- Provides:
 - Debugging controls
 - Help with active development of system
 - CubeSat properties
 - Location, altitude, center of mass
 - Calculated environmental properties
 - Gravitational force/acceleration, magnetic forces

▼ CubeSat Sim Controls

Enable Logging

Reload Scripts

Cubesat

Location:

X	-0 m
Y	0 m
Z	0 m

Altitude: 689.500

Center of Mass

Location:

X	0 m
Y	0 m
Z	0 m

Grav Force Experienced (N):

x:1.4161094664478062e+27

y:-2.8322189328956123e+27

z:-0.0

Grav Acc Experienced (m/sec²):

x:-3.618875980487355e+26

y:-1.447550392194942e+27

z:-0.0

North component: +56704.256

East component: +399.379

Vertical component (+ve down): -14232.958

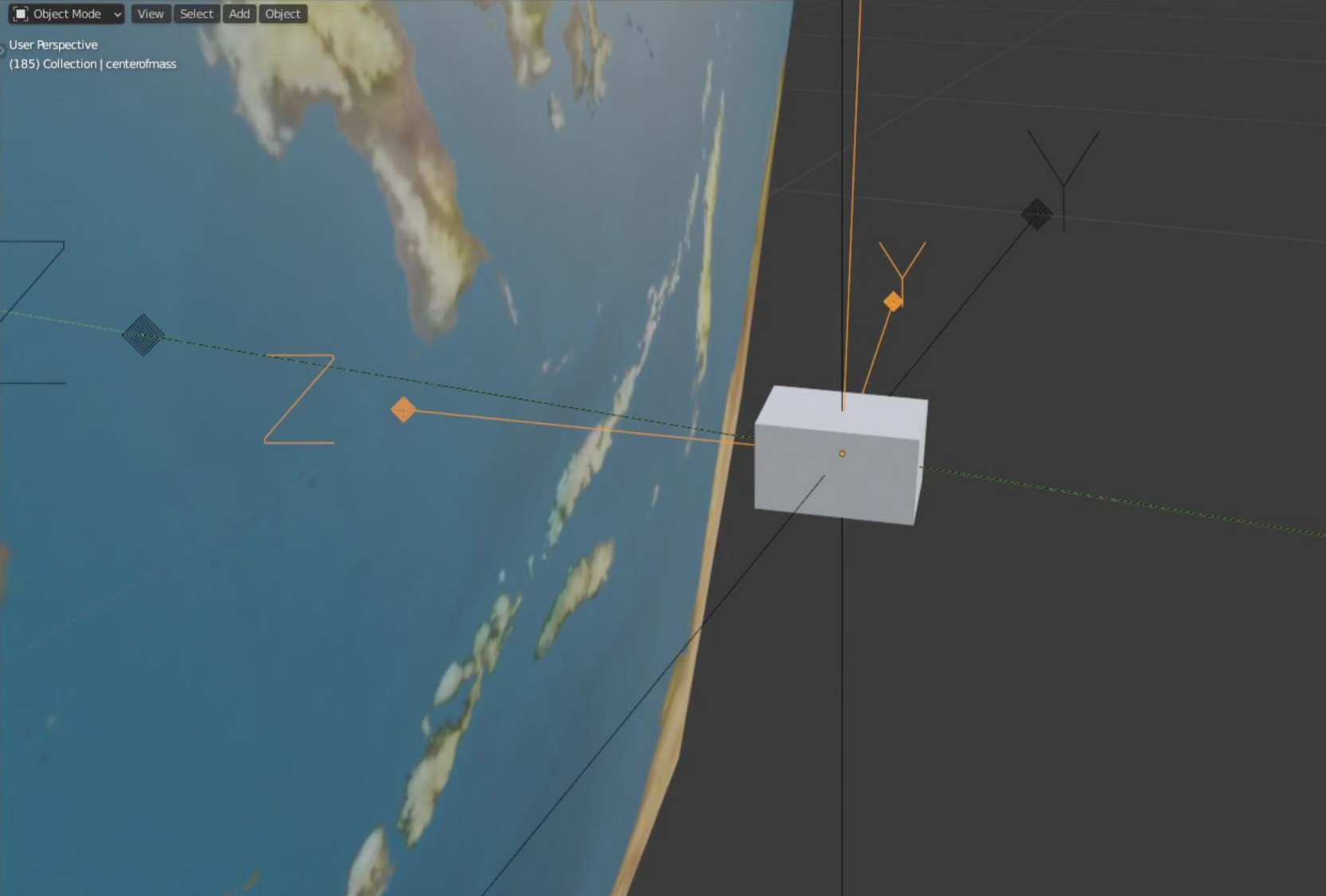
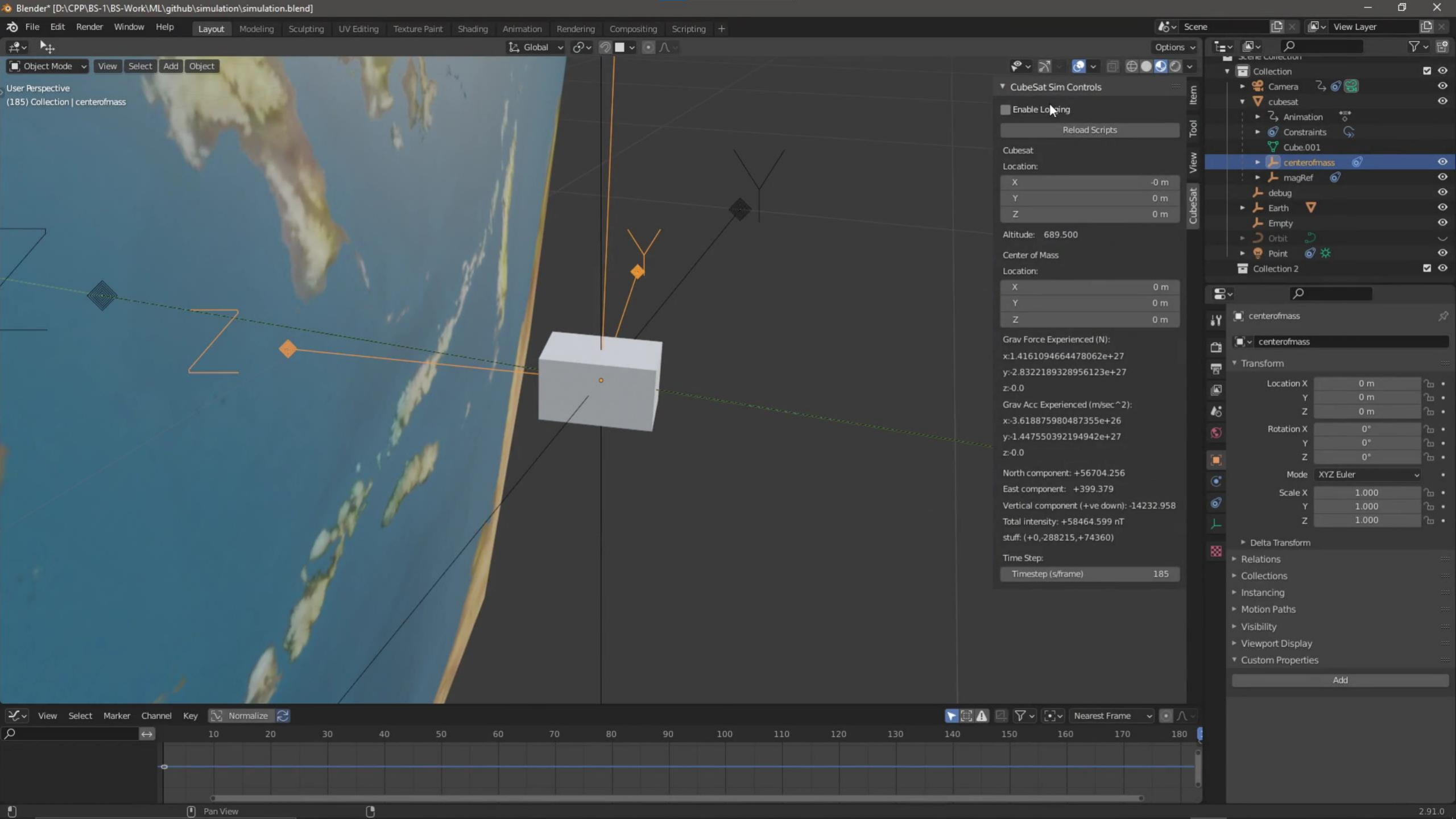
Total intensity: +58464.599 nT

stuff: (+0,-288215,+74360)

Time Step:

Timestep (s/frame) 185

Item
Tool
View
CubeSat



CubeSat Sim Controls

Enable Logging

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Cubesat

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Center of Mass

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Time Step:

Timestep (s/frame) 185

Scene Collection

- Collection
- Camera
- cubesat
 - Animation
 - Constraints
 - Cube.001
 - centerofmass**
 - magRef
 - debug
 - Earth
 - Empty
 - Orbit
 - Point
- Collection 2

centerofmass

centerofmass

Transform

Location X: 0 m

Y: 0 m

Z: 0 m

Rotation X: 0°

Y: 0°

Z: 0°

Mode: XYZ Euler

Scale X: 1.000

Y: 1.000

Z: 1.000

Delta Transform

Relations

Collections

Instancing

Motion Paths

Visibility

Viewport Display

Custom Properties

Add

View Select Marker Channel Key Normalize

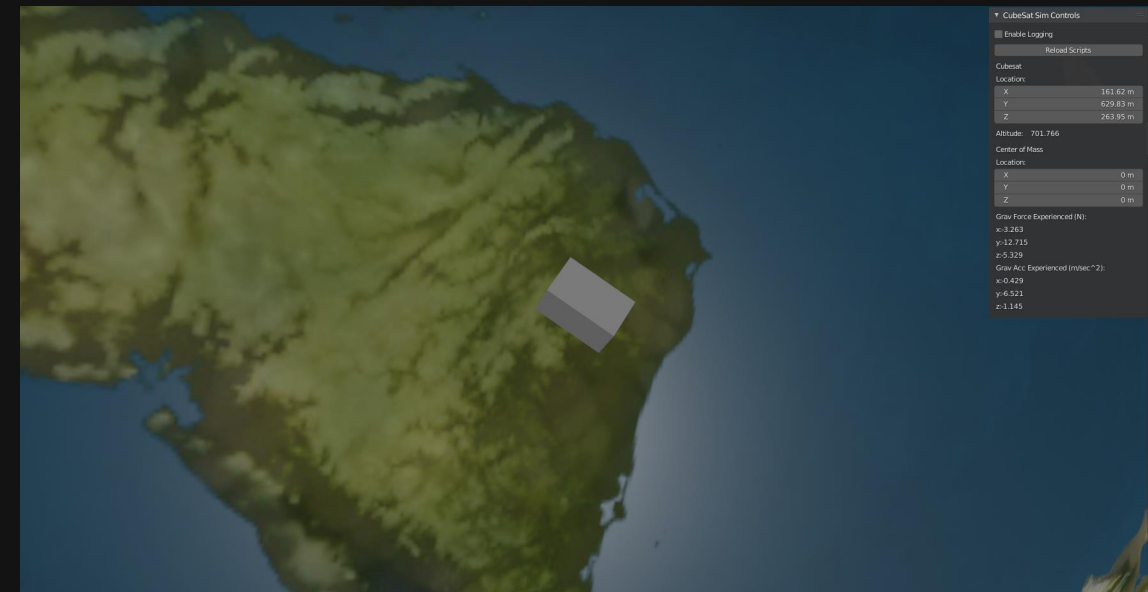
Timeline: 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180

Nearest Frame

Spacecraft Simulation: Gravity Properties



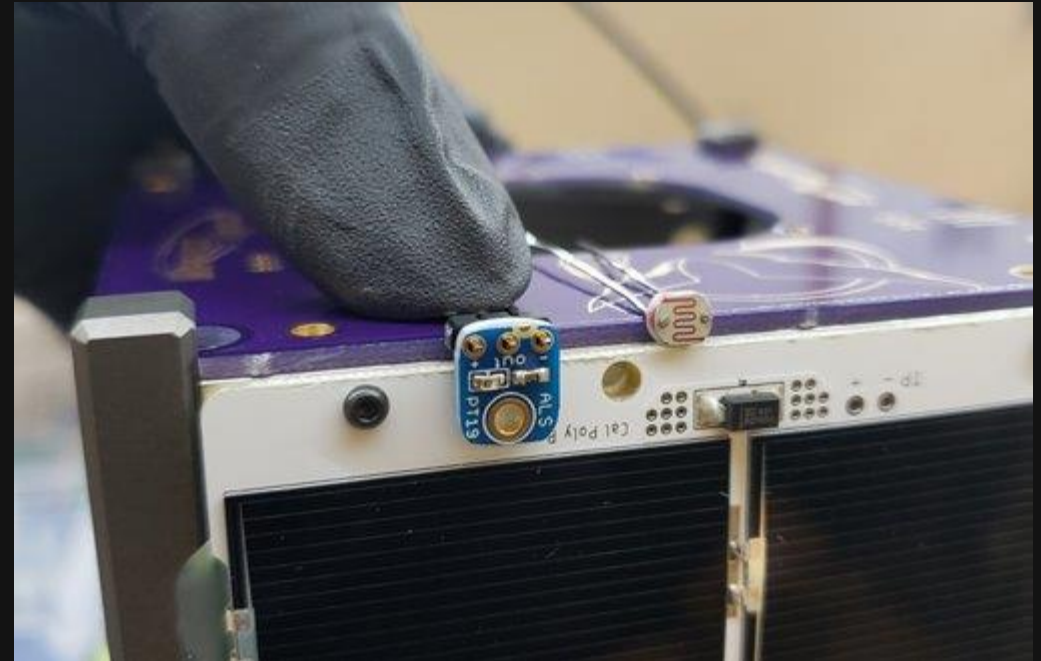
- Gravitational Force and acceleration experienced by satellite
- Both vector quantities
- Calculations based on Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation



Spacecraft Simulation: Sun Sensors



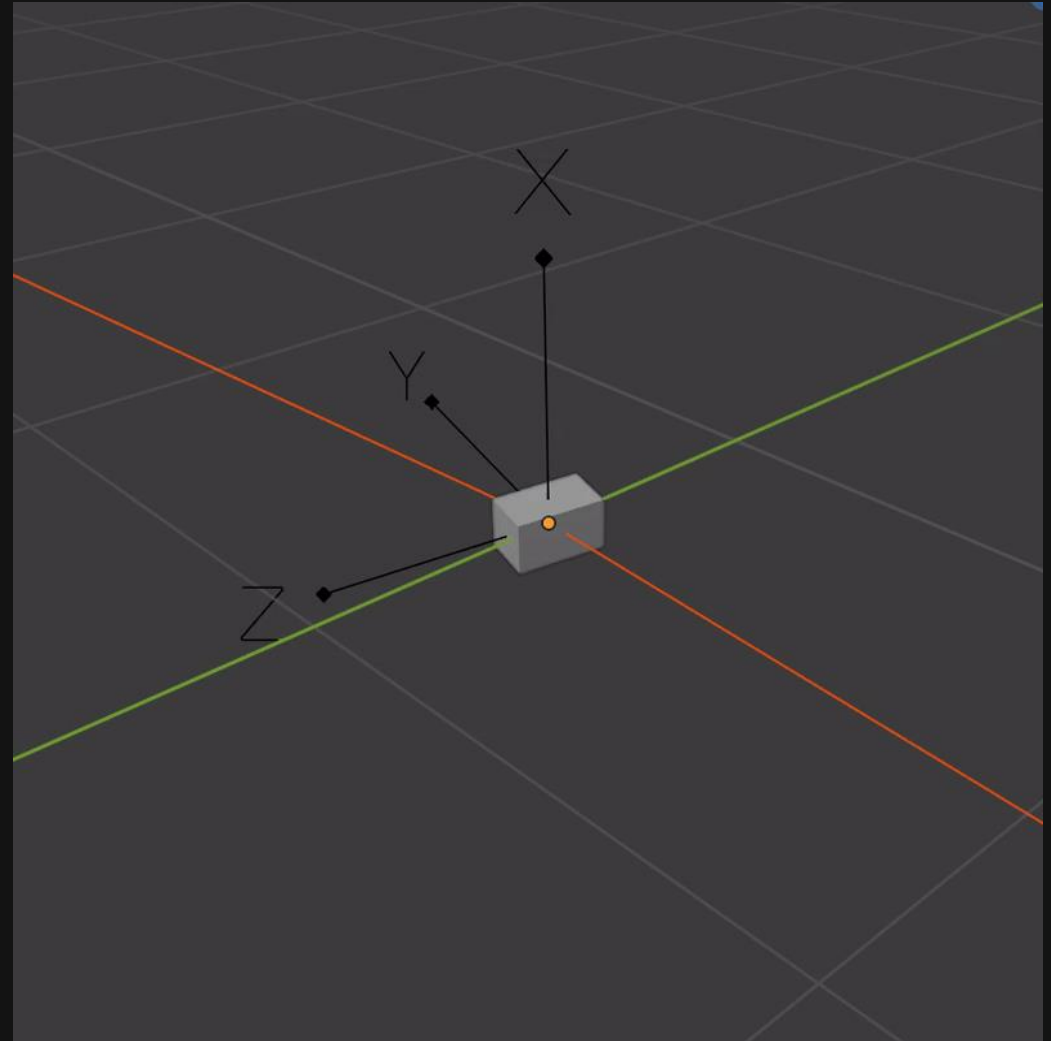
- Rough approximation made through trigonometric approach
- Does not consider light reflected off any planetary bodies
- Minimum and maximum lux approximations based on data from an ALS-PT19-315C photoresistor



Spacecraft Simulation: Angular Velocity



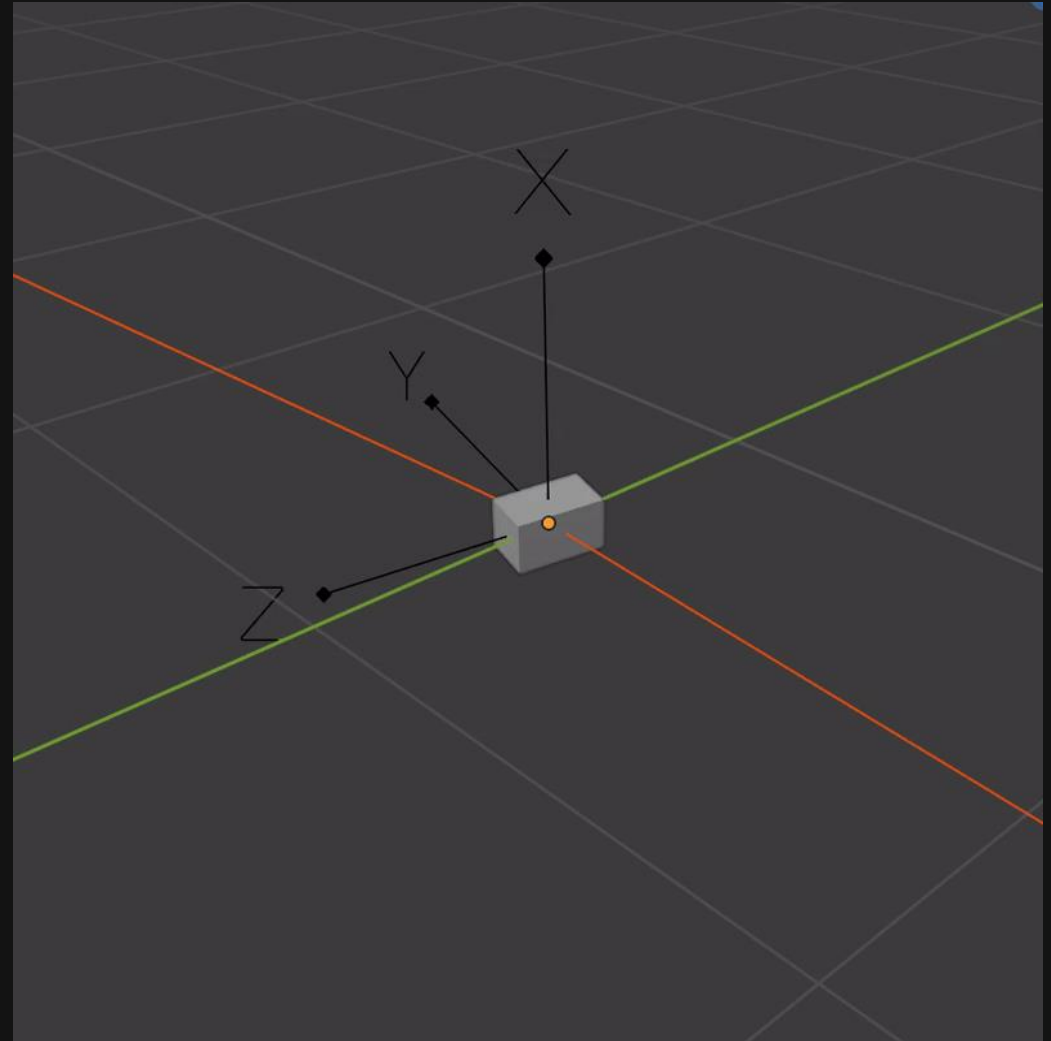
- Defined as the change in the satellite's orientation per frame step
- Two Functions
 - Reads angular velocity every frame step
 - Calculates new positions based off desired angular velocity input
- All calculations use Quaternions



Angular Velocity Demonstration



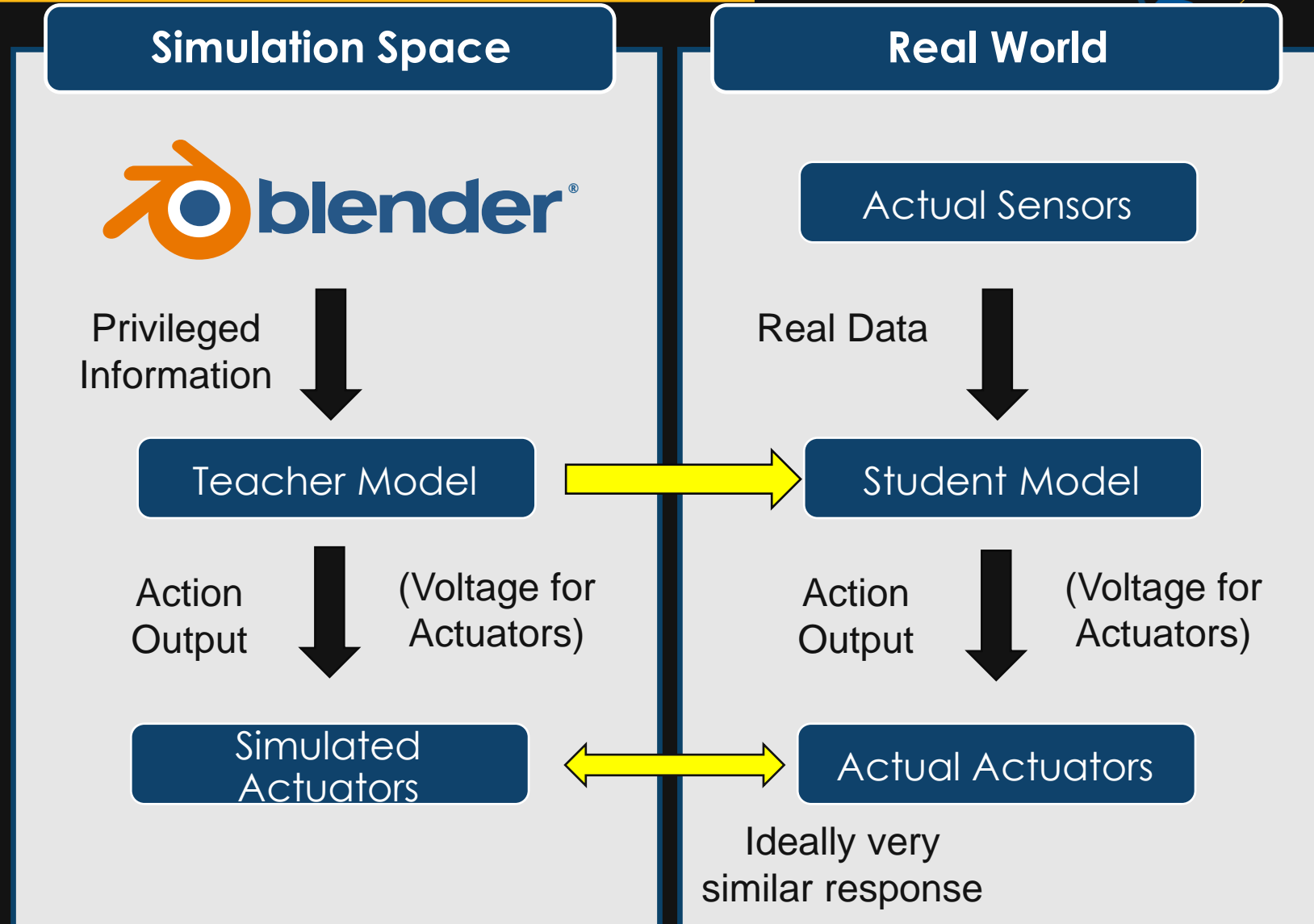
- Orientation set function
- Angular velocity set to 10 degrees about each axis
- Time step of 1 frame per second



Control System: ML Architecture



- Based on the Teacher-Student architecture
- Teacher will be heavily trained on the simulation with all data
- Student model then uses teacher weights and biases as reference for real world operation
- Similar abstract understanding between models



Control System: Use Case



- Currently designed for a 3 magnetorquer system
- Inputs consist of 6 sun sensors and IMU data
- Easy to adjust actuation/input
- Model will be verified in laboratory testing
- Designed to be deployed as a small network file compatible with Python and C++ software

