

Trilateration Equation

maXbox Starter 115 - Get Target-point from 4 Sensors.

"Time behaves like space - timeless.

Source: 966_U_PointInSpace52_mX4Form2_64.pas & PointInSpace5_64.exe

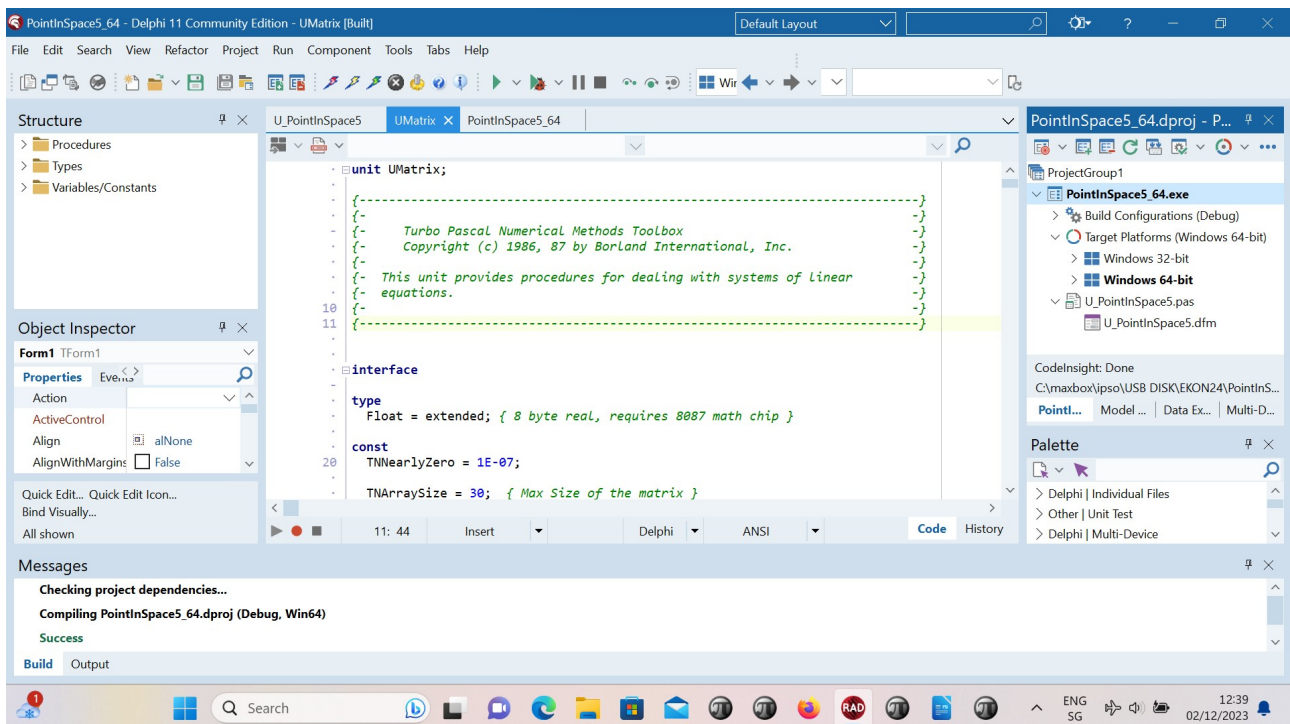
If you have a code base of 32-bit Windows Delphi applications that you want to convert to 64-bit Windows, you should first do a reorganisation of the sources for an overview. Today we deal with an old Borland library *UMatrix.pas* and a mathematical problem with of course a solution too.

```
{-----}
{-                                             -}
{-   Turbo Pascal Numerical Methods Toolbox   -}
{-   Copyright (c) 1986, 87 by Borland International, Inc. -}
{-                                             -}
{- This unit provides procedures for dealing with systems of linear -}
{- equations.                                -}
{-                                             -}
{------}
```

Given the 3D coordinate locations of four sensors and their known distance from a target, calculate the location of the target.

[Point From 4 Sensors \(delphiforfun.org\)](http://delphiforfun.org)

The source is organised in a project-, a form- and a calculation unit:



pic1: 115_dradstudio_code.png

So its not always that easy to open your old 32-bit application in the IDE, add and activate the 64-bit Windows target platform, and compile your application as a 64-bit target Windows application. We must search also our old dependencies and check the compatibility with components.

Source Organisation

Unit *UMatrix* is the unit from the old Borland Turbo Pascal Numeric Toolbox which contains the Gaussian Elimination procedure used here among other matrix operations.

So we have sensors at known locations in 3D space. Each sensor can supply distance information to a target but knows nothing about the target's direction. Alternatively, the sensors are Satellites and the target is a GPS receiver which reads very accurate time stamps transmitted by the satellites and calculates distances based on time offsets between its clock when a clock time message is received and satellites' clock time when the message was sent (as contained in the message).

Given the sensor (X, Y, Z) coordinates and their distance-to-target values, we'll use Gaussian Elimination to solve a set of linear equations describing the problem and derived as follows:

The distance D_i to target at (X_t, Y_t, Z_t) for sensor "i" located at (A_i, B_i, C_i) is given by

$$\text{Sqr}(D_i) = \text{Sqr}(A_i - X_t) + \text{Sqr}(B_i - Y_t) + \text{Sqr}(C_i - Z_t)$$

after expanding:

$$D_i^2 = A_i^2 - 2A_iX_t + X_t^2 + B_i^2 - 2B_iY_t + Y_t^2 + C_i^2 - 2C_iZ_t + Z_t^2$$

So for the reorganisation of the sources I have the latest revision with patches as from issues and it goes like this:

```
begin { procedure Gaussian_Elimination }
  Initial(Dimen, Coefficients, Constants, Solution, Error);
  if Dimen > 1 then begin
    UpperTriangular(Dimen, Coefficients, Constants, Error);
    if Error = 0 then
      BackwardsSub(Dimen, Coefficients, Constants, Solution);
  end;
end; { procedure Gaussian_Elimination }
```

Solving this system of quadratic equations can be tricky, but we can subtract the Sensor1 equation from each of the other 3 to obtain linear equations like the following example for Sensor2::

$$2(A_1 - A_2)X_t + 2(B_1 - B_2)Y_t + 2(C_1 - C_2)Z_t = D_2^2 - A_2^2 - B_2^2 - C_2^2 - D_1^2$$

The resulting 3 equations in 3 unknowns form a system of linear equations which are solved here using Gaussian Elimination to find the (X_t, Y_t, Z_t) target coordinates.

Note that the original problem requires 4 equations to resolve the 3 unknowns (the x, y, and z coordinates of the target). Two sensors can narrow target location down to a circle (the intersection of 2 spheres with target distances as radii), the 3rd sensor narrows the location down to two possible points, (the intersection of the circle with the 3rd

sensor's sphere circle).

The 4th sensor should resolve which of those two points is the target. Any error in specified locations or distances would either have no solution or require that some input values be adjusted. The techniques applied here result in reported distances being adjusted to produce a solution. Differences between input and calculated distances are listed as part of the solution. Lets have a look at the init routine *Initial* which is called in the main by Gaussian Elimination:

```

procedure Initial(Dimen      : integer;
                  var Coefficients : TNmatrix;
                  var Constants   : TNvector;
                  var Solution    : TNvector;
                  var Error       : byte);

{-----}
{- Input: Dimen, Coefficients, Constants      -}
{- Output: Solution, Error                  -}
{-                                           -}
{- This procedure test for errors in the value of Dimen. -}
{- This procedure also finds the solution for the      -}
{- trivial case Dimen = 1.                      -}
{-----}

begin
  Error:= 0;
  if Dimen < 1 then
    Error:= 1
  else
    if Dimen = 1 then
      if ABS(Coefficients[1, 1]) < TNNearlyZero then
        Error:= 2
      else
        Solution[1]:= Constants[1] / Coefficients[1, 1];
    end; { procedure Initial }

```

Introduction Gaussian Elimination Trilateration

We have 4 sensors at known locations in 3D space. Each sensor can supply distance information to a target but knows nothing about the target's direction.

Alternatively, the sensors are Satellites and the target is a GPS receiver which reads very accurate time stamps transmitted by the satellites and calculates distances based on time offsets between its clock and satellites' clocks.

Given the sensor (X,Y,Z) coordinates and their reported distance-to-target values, we want to determine the target location. The program uses either of two methods to locate the target object, "Gaussian Elimination" or "Trilateration" which is new with Version 5 of the program. In both methods, a set of distance equations is solved based finding the single intersection point of spheres centered on the sensors with radii equal to the sensor's (or the target's) estimate of the distance to (or from) the target.

Note that, in general, the problem requires 4 equations to narrow solutions to a single point. Two sensors can narrow target location down to a circle

Linear system:			
	Coefficients		Constants
	0.000000	0.000000	-2.000000, -9.998775
	-2.000000	0.000000	0.000000, -9.998775
	-4.000000	-4.000000	-4.000000, -59.997888

Target coordinates (X, Y, Z)

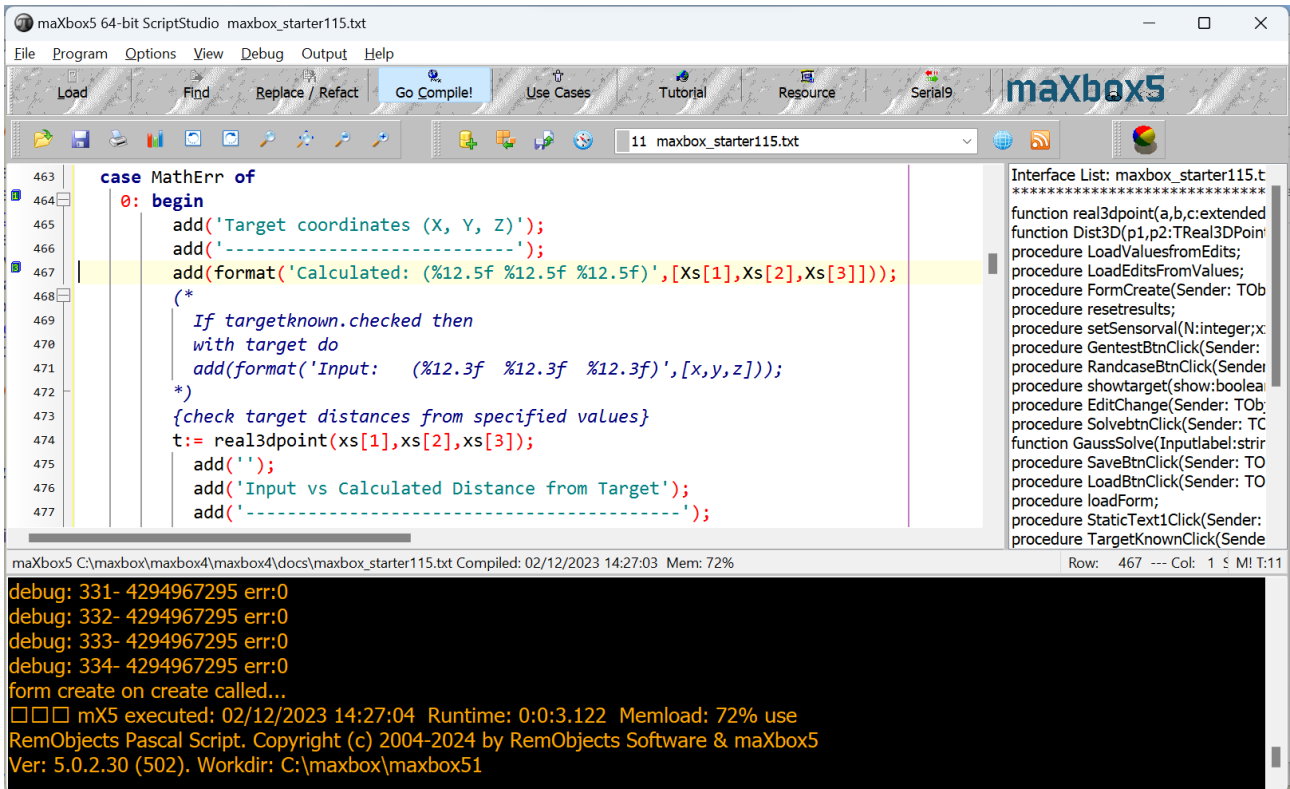
Calculated: (4.99939 5.00070 4.99939)

Input vs Calculated Distance from Target

Copyright © 2008, 2014, 2020-2024 Gary Darby, maXbox5, www.DelphiForFun.org

Pic2: 115_GUIDesignandRuntime2023-12-02143419.png

The Solve button returns a position which may be at distances different from those in the original distance equations but do satisfy the distances relative to Sensor 1. That is part of what we sacrifice by eliminating one of the equations and converting quadratics to linear. A better solution in the "GPS case might be to incorporate dummy 4th variable representing the distance error due to clock synchronization errors between the satellites and the GPS receiver. The multivariate Newton-Raphson algorithm is a possible way to solve by using 4 quadratic equations in 4 unknowns.



Pic3: 115_DesignTime2023-12-02143302.png

In Delphi or maXbox, I can include a folder's source code by adding it to the project Search Path or define as an include file, or adding it to the Library Path. The Search Path applies for the *UMatrix.pas* only to the current project, while the Library Path applies to any project opened with the IDE.

Version 5 Test Case

Version 5 posted today adds a second method for locating the target. Trilateration uses the locations of three sensors to exactly narrow the target location down to at most two possibilities. See this Wikipedia article for an excellent discussion and derivation of the Math involved. I translated a C code implementation to Delphi for testing.

[Trilateration - Wikipedia](#)

By solving the 4 combination using 3 of the 4 sensors and saving the two solutions from each case, it seems that we have good luck in identifying the single solution. It is much more robust to the Gaussian Elimination version, easily solving the case submitted by a user which led to the current investigation: Using notation (x, y, z, r) to represent the x, y, z, coordinates and r, the measured distance to the target.

A test case is defined by (0,0,0,10), (10,0,0,10), (0,10,0,10), and (10,10,0,10). Gaussian Elimination finds no solution or an incorrect solution if a small increment is added to the z coordinate of one of the sensors to remove the singularity. Trilateration correctly identifies the solution as (5, 5, 7.07) or (5, 5, -7.07) which is also valid:

Solution 1: 5.00 5.00 7.07

Distance to sphere 1 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 2 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 3 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)

Solution 2: 5.00 5.00 -7.07

Distance to sphere 1 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 2 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 3 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)

Solution 1: 5.00 5.00 7.07

Distance to sphere 1 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 2 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 4 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)

Solution 2: 5.00 5.00 -7.07

Distance to sphere 1 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 2 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 4 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)

Solution 1: 5.00 5.00 -7.07

Distance to sphere 1 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 3 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 4 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)

Solution 2: 5.00 5.00 7.07

Distance to sphere 1 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 3 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 4 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)

Solution 1: 5.00 5.00 -7.07

Distance to sphere 2 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 3 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 4 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)

Solution 2: 5.00 5.00 7.07

Distance to sphere 2 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 3 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)
Distance to sphere 4 is 10.000 (radius 10.000)

Sum of coordinate differences:

Solution 1: 28.28427, Solution #2: 28.28427

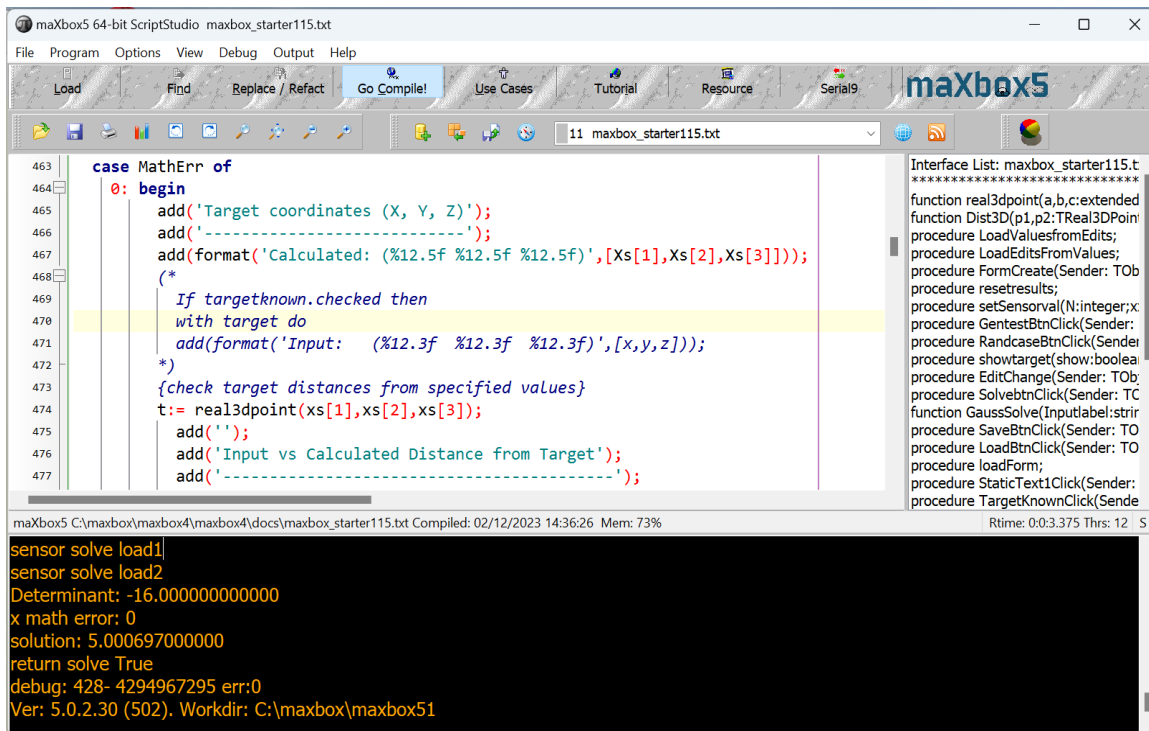
Use Solution 2 set

Solution 2: 5.00 5.00 -7.07

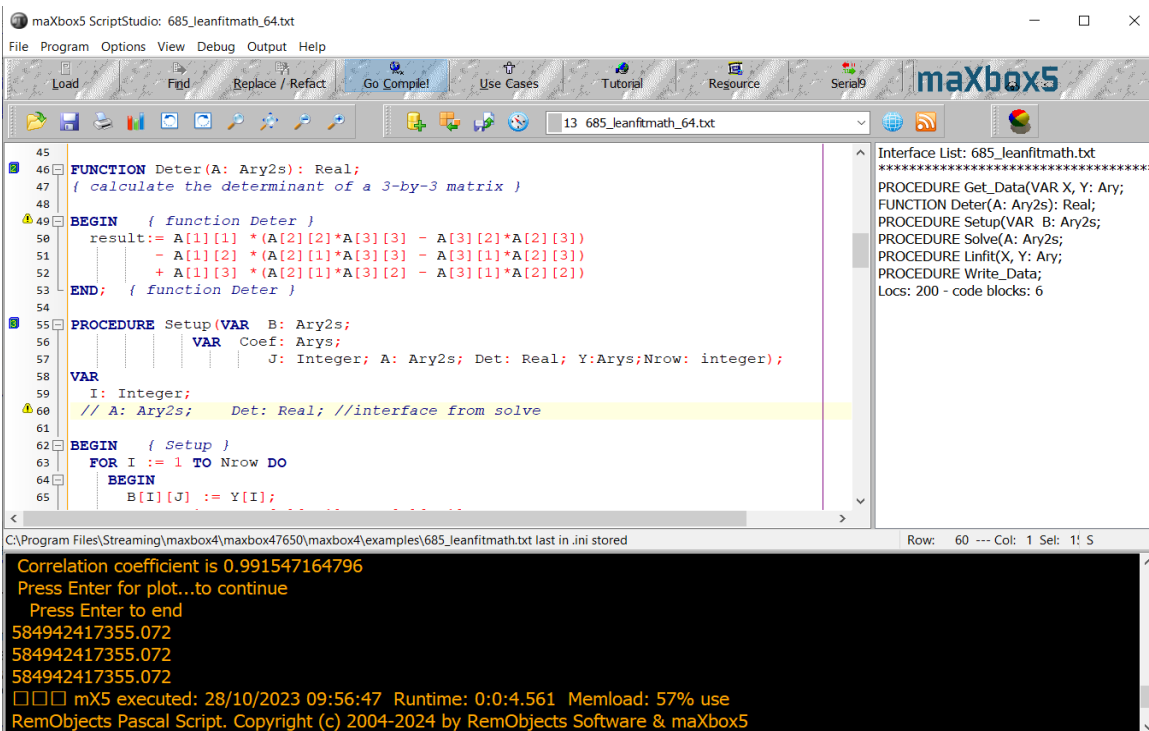
Distance to sphere 1 is 10.00000 (vs. measured 10.00000)
Distance to sphere 2 is 10.00000 (vs. measured 10.00000)
Distance to sphere 3 is 10.00000 (vs. measured 10.00000)
Distance to sphere 4 is 10.00000 (vs. measured 10.00000)

As you can see in Pic2 there are 19 *TEdit* controls for user input; 4 for each of the 4 sensors plus 3 if the user wants to enter target values. The target values were convenient when debugging the code with sets of points with known solutions. In order to simplify the code, I defined an array, *Sensors*, of *TSensorEdits* records, each containing 4 *TEdit* references (object references are always pointers), plus the numeric version of the X, Y, Z, and R (distance) values represent by the edits

for that specific sensor.
 Perhaps as suggested we can just define references to avoid an assembler.
 Geometrically, each of the 4 sensors and its target distance define a sphere upon which the target must lie, and that should be the common point of intersection of all 4 spheres.



Pic4: 115_GUIDesignandRuntime2023-12-02143419.png



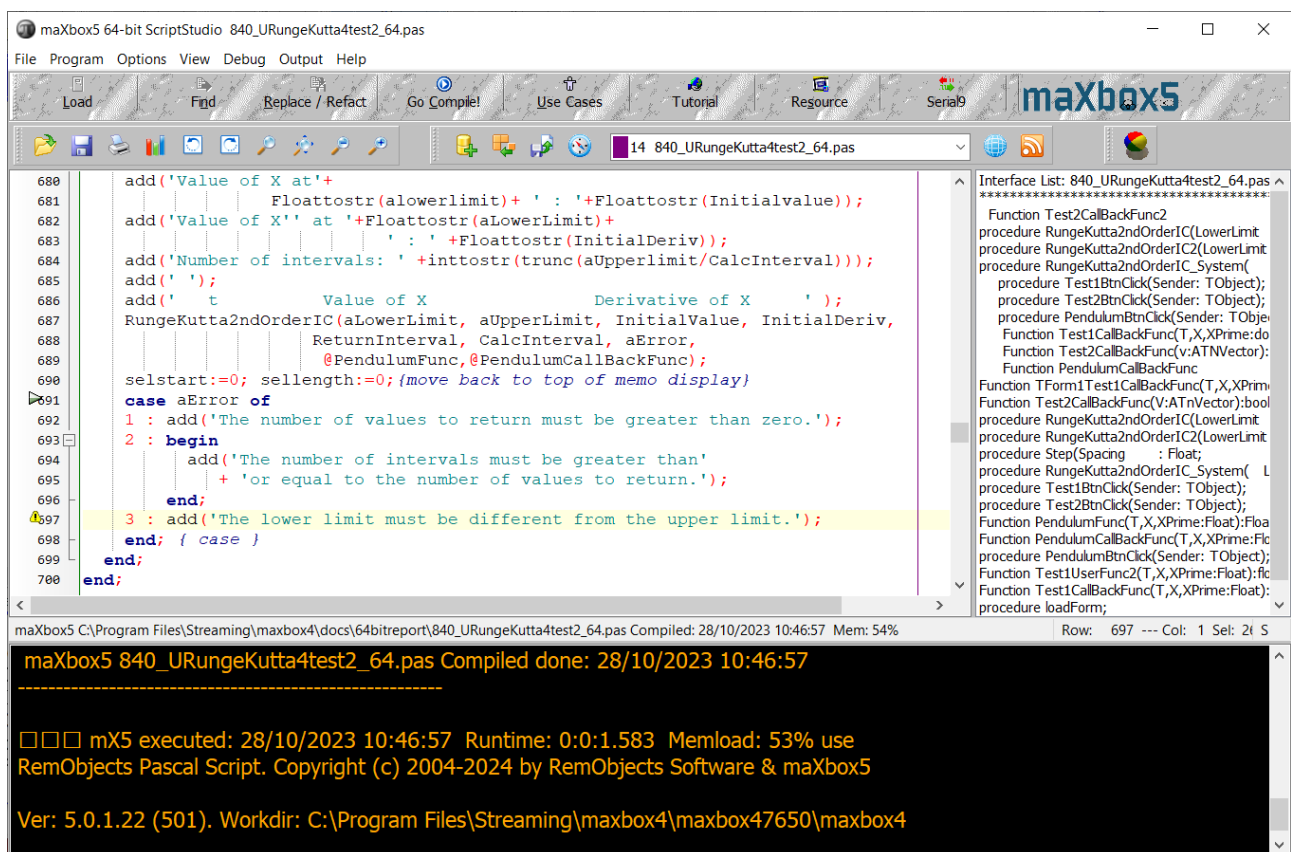
Pic5: 7_mX5_64bitGUI.png

This target coordinate technique above used to help with the understanding about what each distance represents and what the difference results of. Alternatively, the sensors are Satellites and the target is a GPS receiver which reads very accurate time stamps transmitted by the satellites and calculates distances based on time offsets between its clock and satellites' clocks. About the topic:

[How GPS Receivers Work - Trilateration vs Triangulation - GIS Geography](#)

Another interesting topic is the Runge-Kutta technique for solving second order ordinary differential equations, like in a pendulum motion.

[Pendulums, Simple and otherwsie \(delphiforfun.org\)](#)



Pic6: 8_mX5_64bitGUI2.png

Conclusion:

Triangulation is process of measuring bearings and calculating distances (using the Sine Rule).

Trilateration is the process of measuring distances and calculating bearings (using Cosine Rule).

Geometrically, each of the 4 sensors and its target distance define a sphere upon which the target must lie, and that should be the common point of intersection of all 4 sphere.

64-bit isn't a magic bullet. Other than that, you only need to change if you've already encountered one of the limits imposed by 32-bit or you want to develop plug-ins for 64-bit app or just be compatible with a 64-bit operation system.

Script: softwareschule.ch/examples/maxbox_starter115.txt

References:

Compiled Project:

<https://github.com/maxkleiner/maXbox4/releases/download/V4.2.4.80/maxbox5.zip>

Topic:

http://delphiforfun.org/Programs/Math_Topics/PointFrom4Sensors.htm
<https://gis.stackexchange.com/questions/17344/differences-between-triangulation-and-trilateration>

Preparation:

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/4051603/how-should-i-prepare-my-32-bit-delphi-programs-for-an-eventual-64-bit-compiler>

Doc and Tool: <https://maxbox4.wordpress.com>

Appendix

Unit UMatrix

```
Procedure Determinant( Dimen : integer; Data : TNmatrix; var Det : Float; var Error : byte);
Procedure Inverse2( Dimen : integer; Data : TNmatrix; var Inv : TNmatrix; var Error : byte);
Procedure Gaussian_Elimination(Dimen:integer;Coefficients:TNmatrix;Constants:TNvector;var Solution:TNvector;var
Error:byte);
Procedure Partial_Pivoting(Dimen:integer; Coefficients:TNmatrix;Constants:TNvector; var Solution:TNvector;var
Error:byte);
Procedure LU_Decompose(Dimen:integer;Coefficients:TNmatrix;var Decomp:TNmatrix;var Permute:TNmatrix;var
Error:byte);
Procedure LU_Solve(Dimen: integer;var Decomp TNmatrix;Constants:TNvector;var Permute:TNmatrix;var
Solution:TNvector;var Error:byte);
Procedure Gauss_Seidel( Dimen : integer; Coefficients : TNmatrix; Constants : TNvector; Tol : Float; MaxIter :
integer; var Solution : TNvector; var Iter : integer; var Error : byte);
end;

CL.AddTypeS('TNvector', 'array[1..30] of Extended');
//TNvector = array[1..TNArraySize] of Float;
CL.AddTypeS('TNmatrix', 'array[1..30] of TNvector');
//TNmatrix = array[1..TNArraySize] of TNvector;

CL.AddConstantN('TNNearlyZero','Extended').setExtended( 1E-07);
CL.AddConstantN('TNArraySize','LongInt').SetInt( 30);
CL.AddDelphiFunction('Procedure Gaussian_Elimination( Dimen : integer; Coefficients : TNmatrix; Constants :
TNvector; var Solution : TNvector; var Error : byte)');
CL.AddDelphiFunction('Procedure Partial_Pivoting( Dimen : integer; Coefficients : TNmatrix; Constants : TNvector;
var Solution : TNvector; var Error : byte)');
CL.AddDelphiFunction('Procedure LU_Decompose( Dimen : integer; Coefficients : TNmatrix; var Decomp : TNmatrix;
var Permute : TNmatrix; var Error : byte)');
CL.AddDelphiFunction('Procedure LU_Solve2( Dimen : integer; var Decomp : TNmatrix; Constants : TNvector; var
Permute : TNmatrix; var Solution : TNvector; var Error : byte)');
CL.AddDelphiFunction('Procedure Gauss_Seidel( Dimen : integer; Coefficients : TNmatrix; Constants : TNvector; Tol
: Float; MaxIter : integer; var Solution : TNvector; var Iter : integer; var Error : byte)');
end;

Solution 1: 5.00 5.00 5.00
Distance to sphere 1 is 6.928 (radius 6.928)
Distance to sphere 2 is 6.403 (radius 6.403)
Distance to sphere 3 is 6.403 (radius 6.403)
Solution 2: 5.00 -3.00 5.00
Distance to sphere 1 is 6.928 (radius 6.928)
Distance to sphere 2 is 6.403 (radius 6.403)
Distance to sphere 3 is 6.403 (radius 6.403)

Sum of coordinate differences:
Solution 1: 1.75172, Solution #2: 24.05681
Using Solution 1 set
Solution 1: 5.00 5.00 5.00
Distance to sphere 1 is 6.92800 (vs. measured 6.92800)
Distance to sphere 2 is 6.40300 (vs. measured 6.40300)
Distance to sphere 3 is 6.40300 (vs. measured 6.40300)
Distance to sphere 4 is 3.46390 (vs. measured 3.46400)
//)
```

Max Kleiner 02/12/2023