

**Activity** **4.2.9 Create Topographical Map**

Introduction

A GPS navigation unit in a car relies on a map that is created when objects such as roads and address locations are positioned on a two dimensional representation of the earth’s surface. You are going to create something even more powerful. A topographical map combines location and elevation plots to create a three dimensional map.

Now that you have obtained a set of data from the elevation sensor, you must create a topographic map to guide your robot’s exploration. This map will be used to assist the programming of the robot’s search routines after it has landed on the lunar surface. MS Excel is an accessible and useful tool for creating the required map, but care must be taken to prepare the sensor data properly. Once the contour plot is produced, modifications can be made to the legend that governs the coloring of the individual pixels. This trial-and-error process can yield maps that more clearly reveal the boundaries of the objects on the surface and provide safer paths for robotic exploration.

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Equipment

* Computer with MS Excel
* Excel data file from Activity 4.2.8 Satellite Flight

Procedure

1. Open the Excel file created in Activity 4.2.8c Satellite Flight Excel Data Sheet.
2. Select the terrain data as shown below.

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| Terrain Data |

1. Click Insert then the arrow on the bottom right of the charts window as shown below. Click Surface then Contour as shown below.

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| Other Charts |
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| Surface Contour |

1. The resulting map is mirror image along the line of longitude designated as 45. The map must be reversed to represent the terrain. Double click the Latitude (vertical) axis label to format the axis. Click Axis Options on the left, click Series In Reverse Order then Ok. Click Chart Styles, click the drop down button on the right then Style 10 to add lines of latitude and longitude.

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| Raw Map |  | Series In Reverse Order |
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|  | | |
| Chart Style | | |

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| Corrected Map |
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| C:\Users\gholt\Downloads\AE CTI Pics_Etc_NEED TO COPY\A4_2_8_Sat Flight\2011_0608_AE_A4_2_8_SatelliteFlight\IMG_4123 (Large).JPG |
| Physical Terrain |

1. Confirm that the map represents the terrain that was surveyed.
2. Save the file then print it.

Conclusion

1. Explain what the various colors in the map represent.
2. Describe the smallest size of the feature that can be reliably measured on your map.
3. Explain if any specific feature of your map is real.
4. When using the map to determine the pathway, explain how much space around the features should be left to prepare for uncertainty.