

# **Robotic Wall Following Algorithm Using Ultrasonic Sensors**

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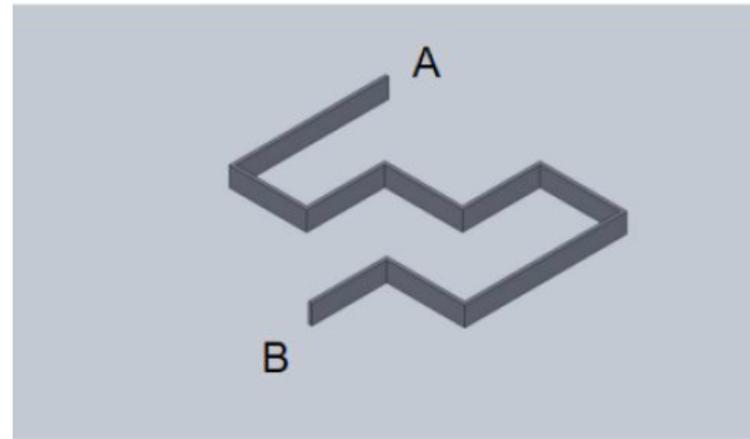
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Georgia Institute of Technology

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# Design Problem



**Objective:** Design a SCOMP wall-following program that will enable the Amigobot to follow walls with inner and outer corners at a distance of 20 cm from the wall

# Design Problem Specifications

1. Use an eight bit **velocity command**
2. Control position by reading the **cumulative rotation counter** of the wheel
3. Use **velocity feedback** and **position feedback** from the wheels via the existing optical encoder peripheral
4. Use existing **sonar** and **velocity control** peripherals to issue commands to each wheel

# Design Solution

## *State Machine Design*

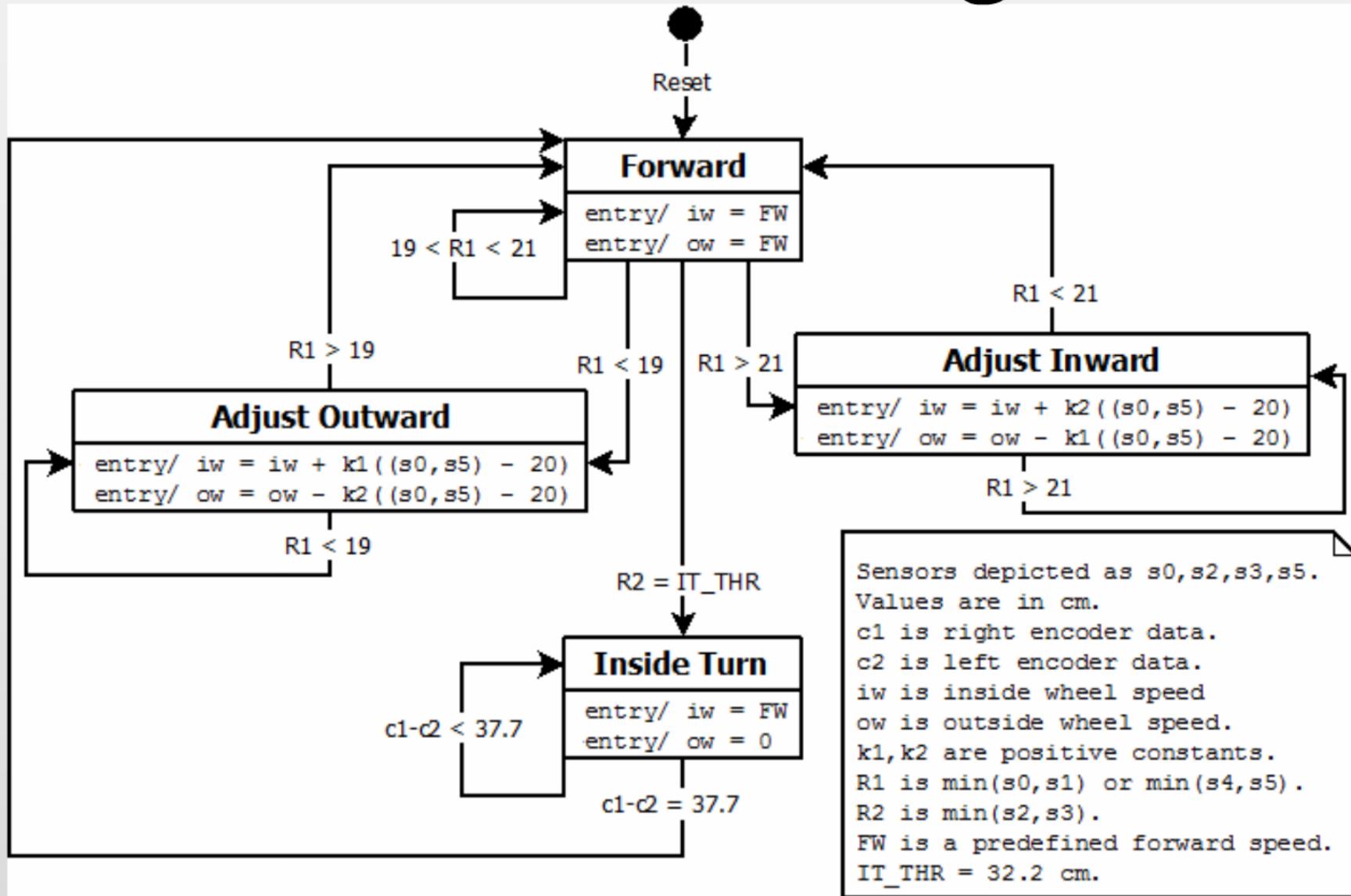
- Four states:

Forward	Adjust Inward
Inside Turn	Adjust Outward
- Inputs are sensor readings
- Outputs are direction instructions
- Switch is used to toggle between following left and right walls

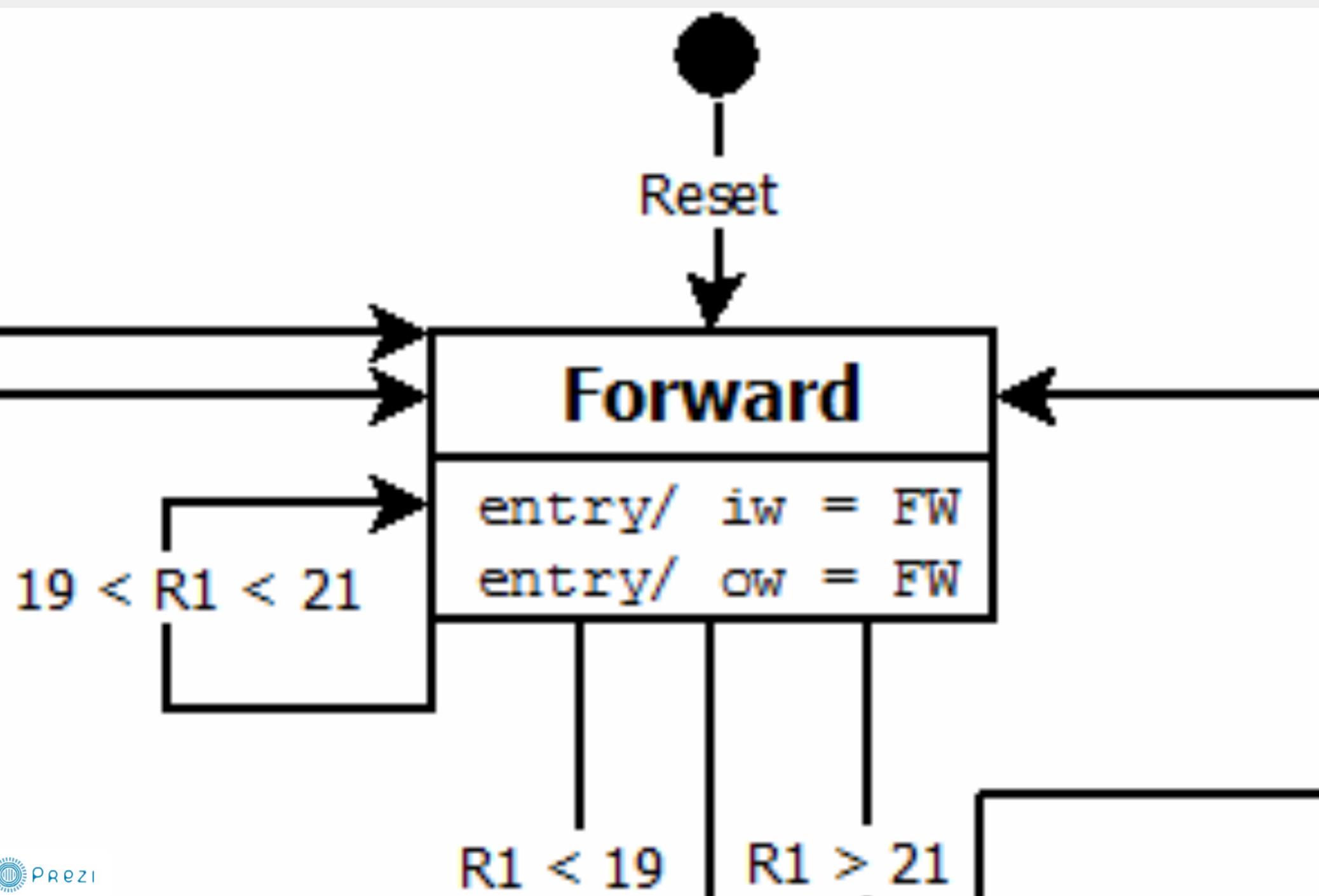
## *Display additions*

- LCD displays status of program
- 7-segment displays show velocities of wheels

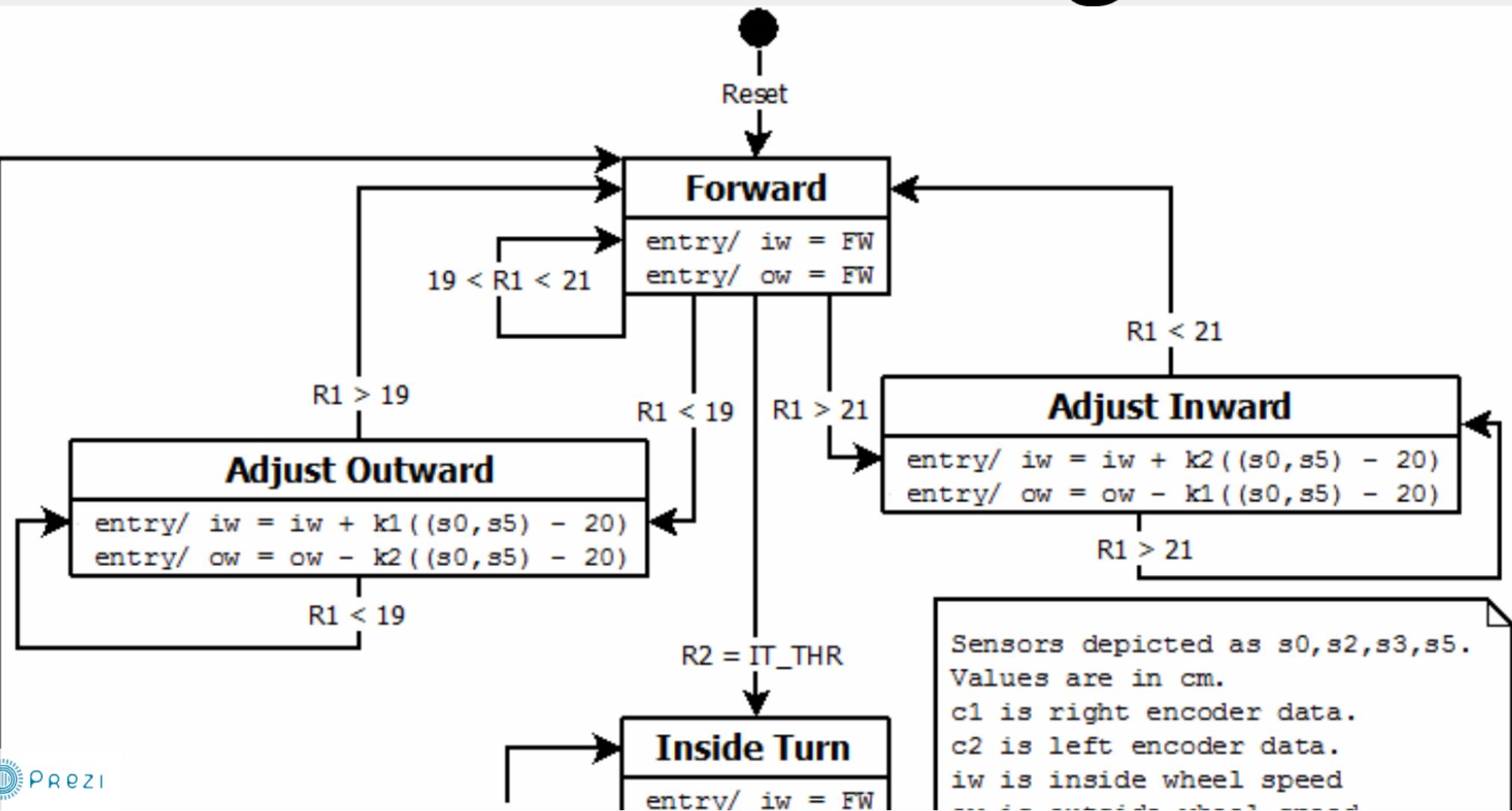
# State Machine Diagram

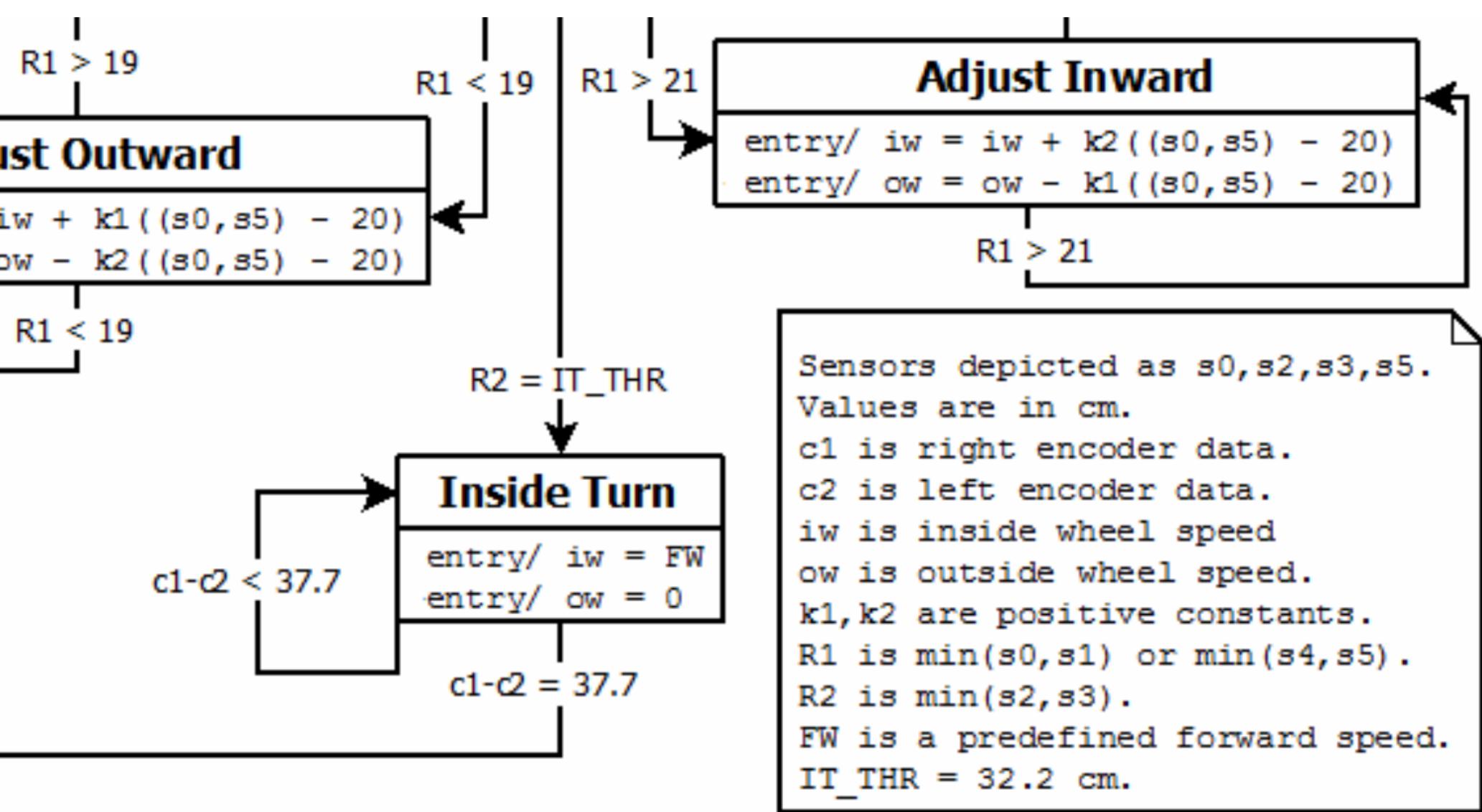


# IMPLEMENTATION

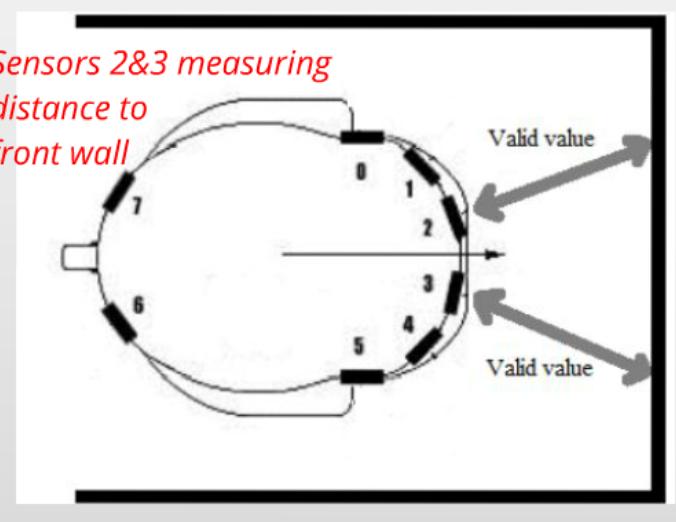
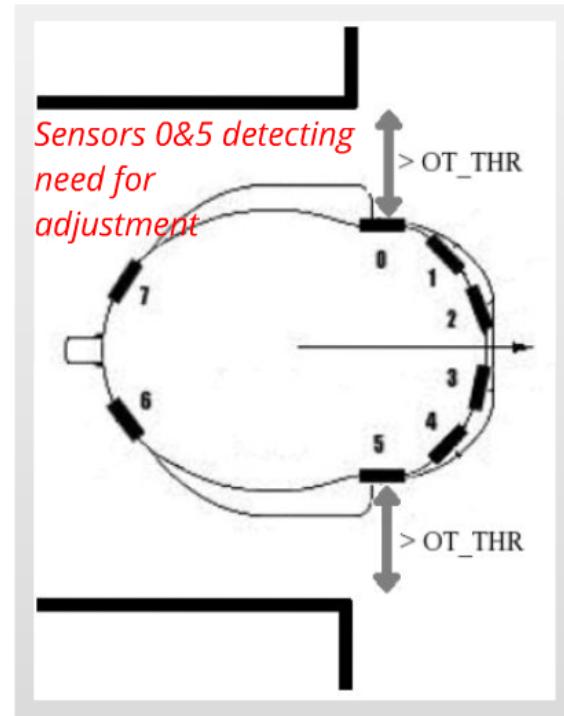
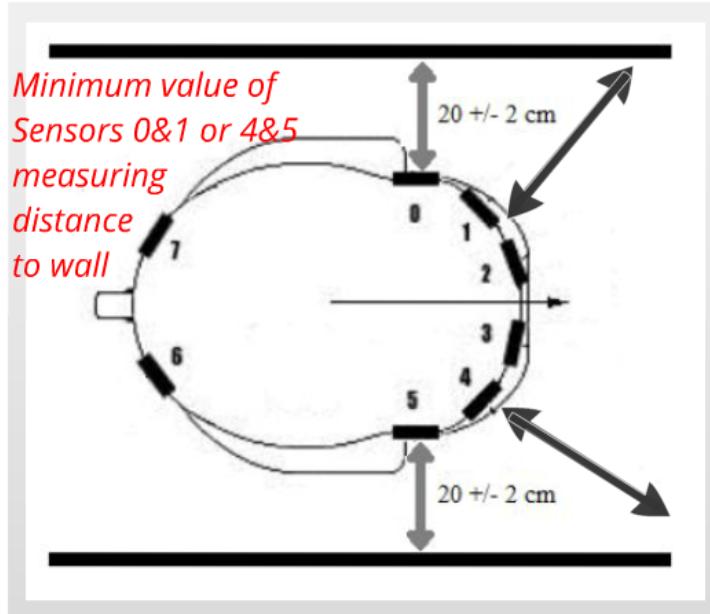


# State Machine Diagram

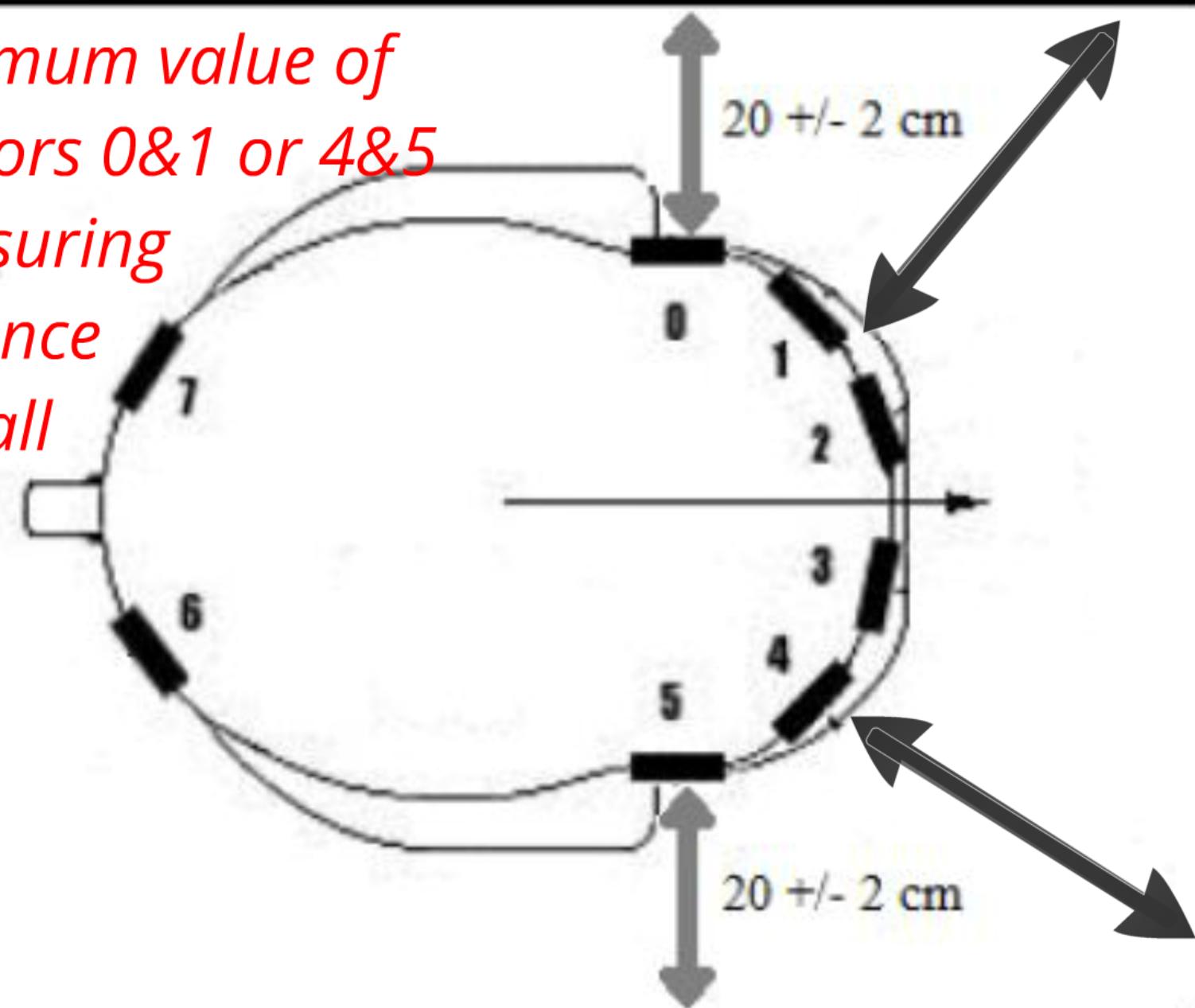




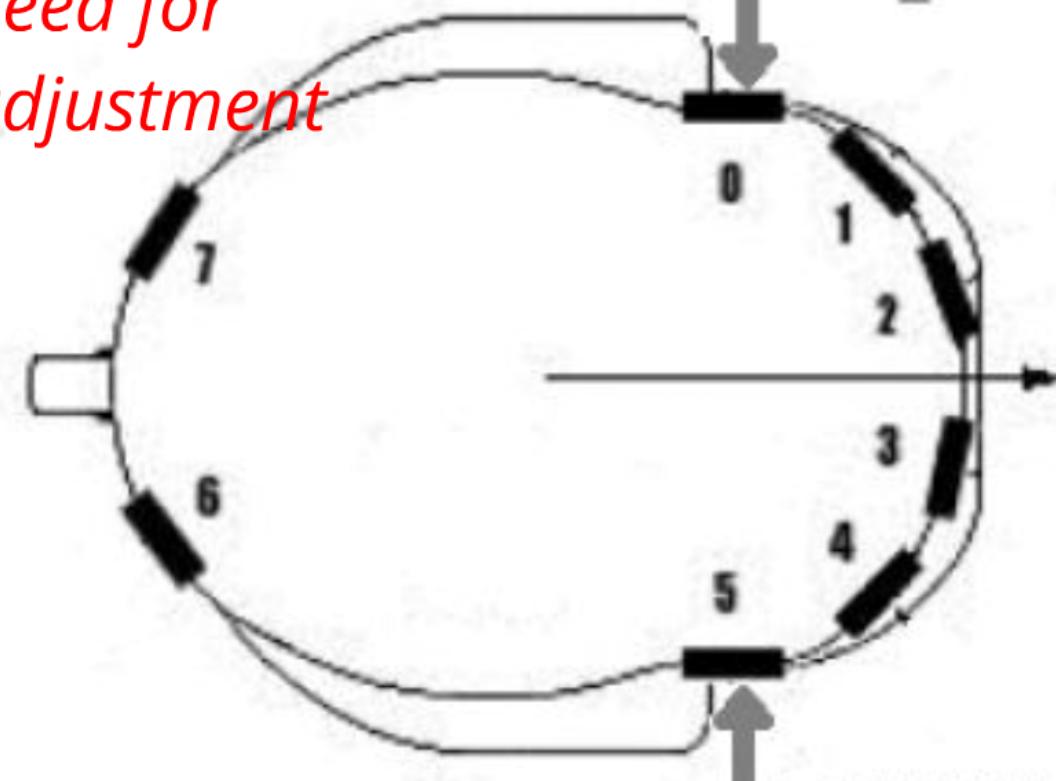
# Ultrasonic Sensors



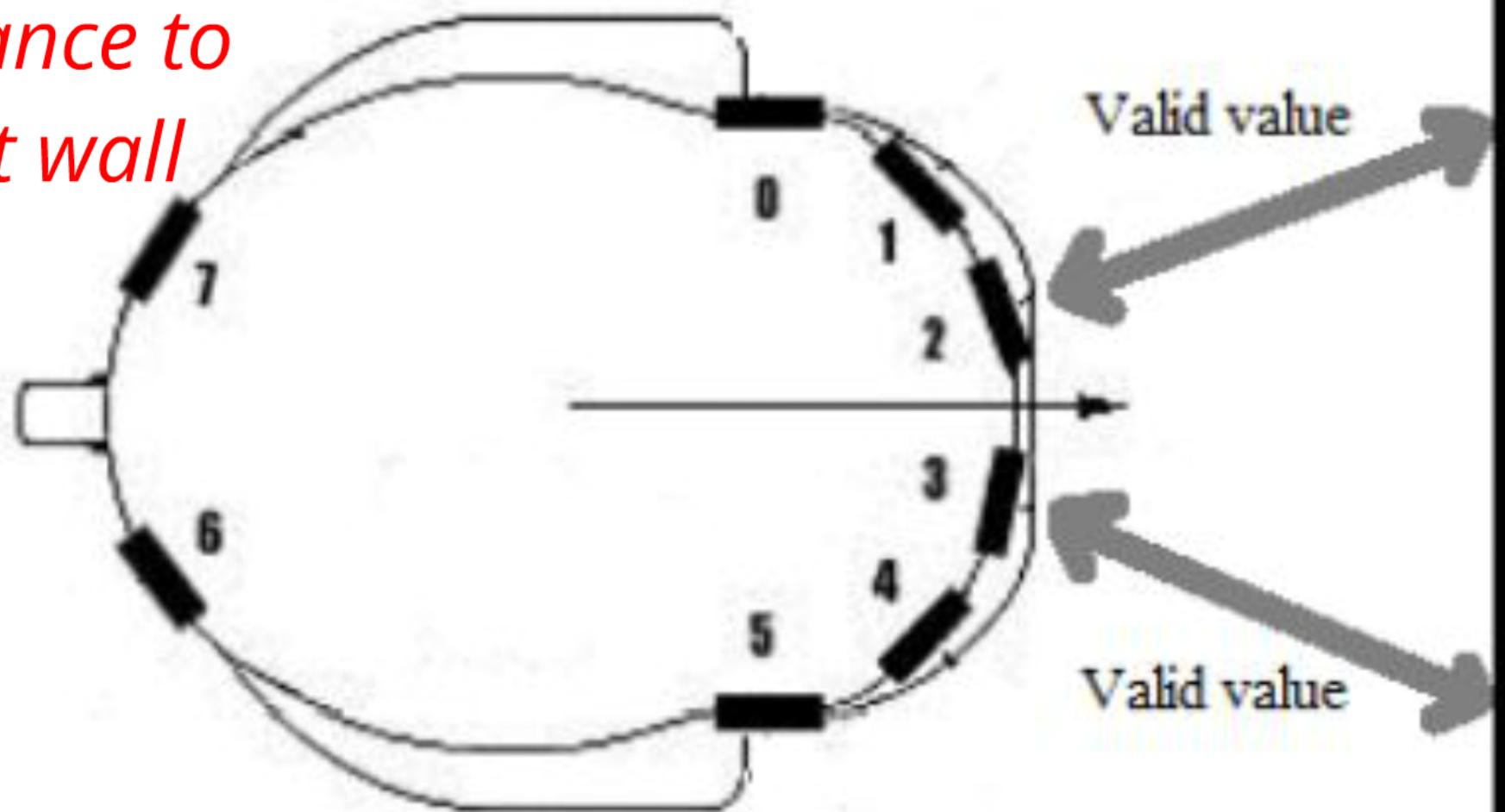
*Minimum value of  
Sensors 0&1 or 4&5  
measuring  
distance  
to wall*



*Sensors 0&5 detecting  
need for  
adjustment*



*Sensors 2&3 measuring  
distance to  
front wall*

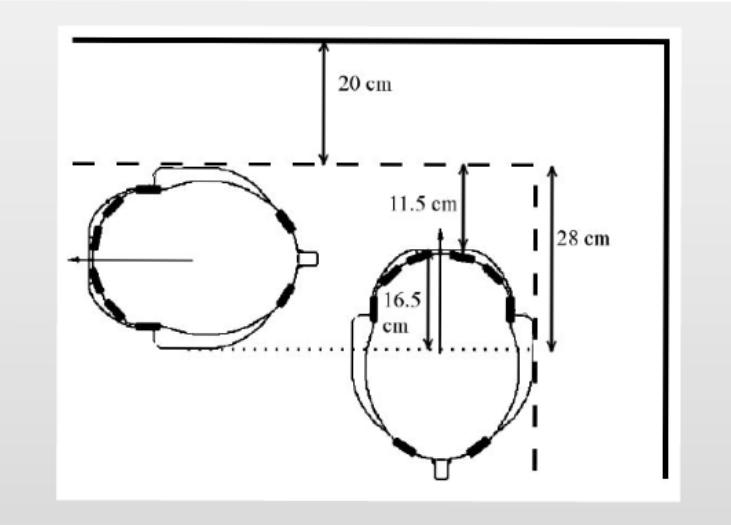


# Navigating Corners

## *Outside Corner*

- Loss of contact with parallel wall → adjust inward state
- Lateral sensor data "capped" at 0x0140 to prevent sharp turning
- Execute turn by adjusting inward until parallel to wall

## *Inside Corner*



- Begin turn once front sensor reaches IT\_THR threshold
- Inside turn state

# Executing a Turn

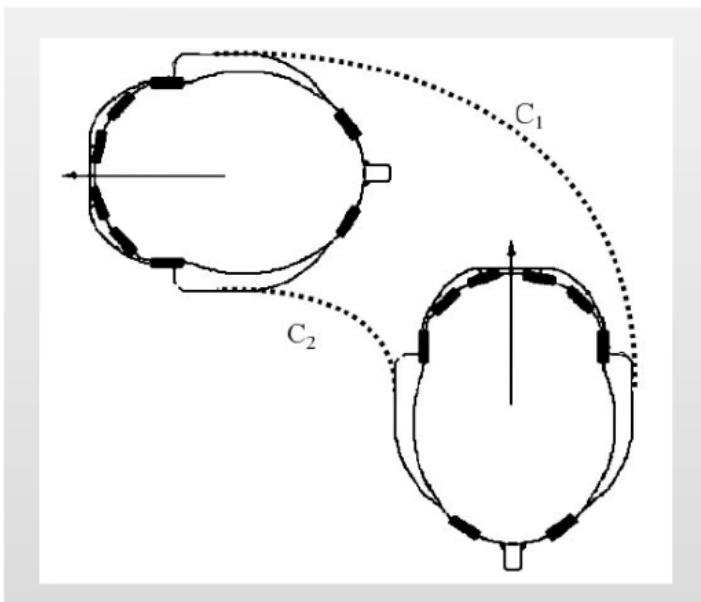
*To turn a precise angle, use the following equation:*

$$C_1 - C_2 = \theta R$$

- Robot has wheel track  $R = 24$  cm

*For Amigobot:*

$$C_1 - C_2 \geq 0.5\pi(24) = 37.7 \text{ cm}$$



- 181 (0x00B5) ticks for quarter turn
- Due to consistent wheel slip, working constant 154 (0x009A)

# Adjustment States

*Once lateral sensors detect robot outside of  $\pm 1\text{cm}$  range of 20cm, robot enters one of two adjustment states:*

- Robot feeds back detected range difference to left and right wheel velocities
- Cumulative adjustment → each loop iteration paused for 1 ms

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_i[n] &= \omega_i[n - 1] + k_1(R_1 - 20) \\ \omega_o[n] &= \omega_o[n - 1] - k_2(R_1 - 20)\end{aligned}$$

# SCOMP Alterations

## *MULT*

- Used built-in multiplier LPM\_MULT
- Result is spread across registers MHI and MLO

## *MLO*

- Moves contents of LO register into accumulator

## *MHI*

- Moves contents of HI register into accumulator

## *DIV and DREM*

- Used built-in divider module LPM\_DIVIDE

## *SHIFT2 and SHIFT3*

- Used built-in shifter module LPM\_CLSHIFT
- SHIFT2 implements variable shifter
- SHIFT3 implements rotating shifter

# 7-Segment Display

Left wheel  
velocity

Average velocity

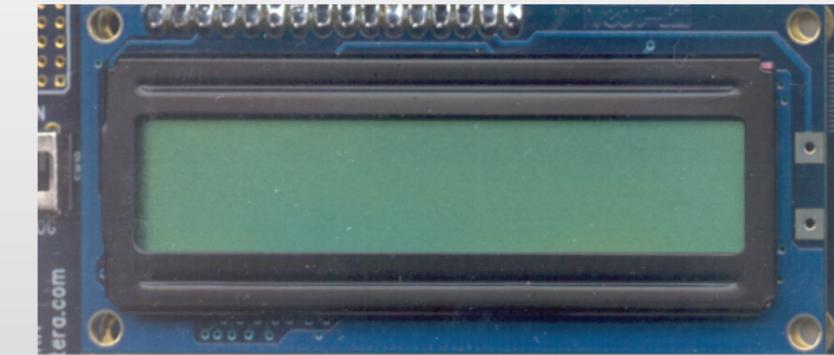
Right wheel velocity



## *Implementation*

1. Add enables to IO Decoder
2. Add hex display modules and enable signal

# LCD Display



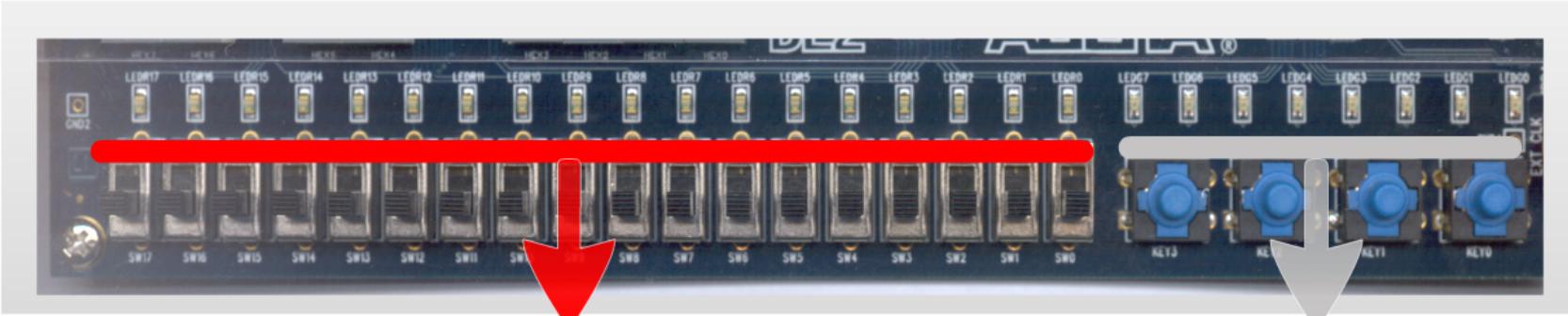
*Implementation*

1. Array of all ASCII values
2. Encode state in input

*Shows state*

- RDY!
- KEY2
- LEFT
- RGHT

# LED Arrays



*Red LEDs*

*Green LEDs*

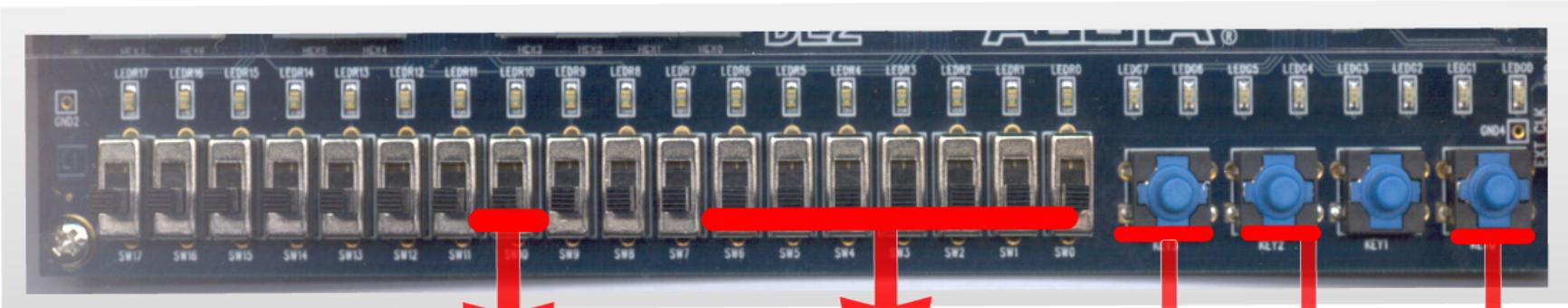
## *Implementation*

1. Add enable to IO Decoder
2. Add LED module to suppress

## *Use*

1. Red LEDs turning rate
2. Green LEDs display loading bar animation

# Assignments



*Choose wall*

*Left = Down*

*Right = Up*

*Switch 10*

*Speed control  
(binary)*

*Switches 0 - 6*

*Reset  
Key 0*

*Start  
Key 2*

*Initialization  
Key 3*

# Problems Encountered

*Nonfunctioning outside turn state* →

Outside turning done by adjust inward state

*Unreliable sensor readings* →

Capped sensor readings

Reduce speed of robot

*LCD display does not always change with states* →

Ignored due to time constraints

# Results

*Percentage of course completed:*

Right Wall: 100%

Left Wall: 100%

*Collisions:* 0

*Accuracy Bonus:* 5/10 sections

*Time taken to complete course:*

6 min, 15 sec

# Discussion

## *Strengths*

- Completes course
- Avoids collisions
- Speed control
- Informative display

## *Weaknesses*

- Slow
- Inconsistent and inefficient algorithm

# Proposed vs. Actual Design

## *LCD role changed*

- Displays basic startup states instead of moving states

## *Outside turn state removed*

- "Adjust in" state handles navigation of an outside corner
- Subroutine limits maximum value of lateral sensors to prevent the robot from turning too sharply

## *Pairs of sensors implemented*

- Handles both lateral and forward wall sensing
- Lateral region R1 and forward region R2

# Future Development

## *Changes*

- Show states on LCD display
- Use green LEDs for states other than inside turn

## *Improvements to design*

- Weighted values of sensors to detect robot orientation
- Improve accuracy of measurement algorithm to detect turns

## *What could be done differently*

- Remove wait loop
- Change invalid value of sensors to 0x7FFF