

Rover Advancements - Ceres

Nicolas Correal Murillo Felipe Ruiz Sosa

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Introduction

We, the Ceres team, are developing a Martian exploration rover to participate in international competitions. Our project aims to expand our knowledge in various technical fields and demonstrate the expertise we've gained through past robotic experiences and our professional careers. By tackling the challenges of designing and building a rover capable of operating on Mars, we hope to advance our skills and contribute to the broader field of space exploration. We differentiate our selves with this project by being the only team developing our own motors from scratch.

In this document we highlight our most relevant milestones, along with the main developments and learnings along the way, as well stating with our following steps.

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1 Milestones Achieved

1.1 Motors

1.1.1 First prototype

Developments

- 100mm x 10mm Stator - 3 phase Winding



Figure 1: First Motor Winding

- 3D model of the rotor with 42 poles (magnets) along with a base
- 3D Print of the motor and assembly
- Initial test with a 30A generic ESC

Results

- The motor vibrates, like trying to move
- The motor winding heats up a lot and very quickly as soon as it is turned on
- The rotor sticks to one side of the stator as it is not supported by anything at its center
- 2 ESC were broken due to the high current draw

Conclusions

- The motor base needs to have an alignment that maintains the rotor at the center of the structure

- An ESC with higher current capacity is needed for these tests.
- It is necessary to check why one of the phases was heating up to 105°C. As well as identifying if this was the cause of the motor not being able to spin

1.1.2 Second prototype

Development

- A new motor was designed, featuring a rotor (upper part) with an extension that fit into an internal base within the stator (lower part), which blocked lateral movement and limited vertical position while allowing rotational movement. Both parts were made entirely of plastic.
- The motor winding was redone because we found that some of them were wound in the opposite direction to what they should have been. This caused the magnetic field, responsible for generating rotation, to be constantly canceled out.
- 3D printing and assembly

Results

- An 80A 6S ESC was used in order to use higher voltage and current when trying the motor.
- The motor spins correctly, however no quantitative methods were used to classify the success of this movement.
- After some time of testing, the friction between the internal support of the rotor and base of the stator make them melt together.
- The rotor still isn't maintained correctly in the vertical axis.

Conclusions

- A different alternative to maintain the rotor aligned is necessary. One that reduces friction while maintaining the center firmly in its position.

1.1.3 Third Prototype

Development

- A new 3D design of the base was created, where the connection between the base and the rotor is made using a bearing to reduce friction and improve the rigidity of the coupling between the two parts.
- An arm was designed for the rotor, which will help us have a basic understanding of the torque the motor can produce.

- The rotor design was changed so that the magnets are no longer attached with resin, allowing for faster and more efficient assembly and facilitating the effective recovery of the magnets for use in future prototypes.
- Printing and Assembly of the model
- Speed was measured with a tacometer
- Current was measured with a current clamp at no motor load
- Simple cualitative torque tests

Conclusions

- The speed measured with the tacometer doesnt seem to be accurate, as it gave a far faster speed than expected (4000rpm vs 2000rpm) and after that failed to read in further tests.
- The motor visibly has an easier time spinnign with the bearing, as friction was greatl reduced
- Another way to measure the motor speed is neccessary.
- We need a cualitative and more safe way to measure the torque output.

1.1.4 First Cycloidal Drive prototype

Development

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Results

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Conclusions

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1.1.5 First Internal Cycloidal Drive prototype

Development

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Results

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Conclusions

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2 Future Goals and Objectives

Outline upcoming milestones and targets for the project, discussing the expected impacts and contributions to the broader field of space exploration.

3 Investment Opportunities

Detail how investors can contribute to the project, emphasizing potential returns and strategic benefits for stakeholders.

Conclusion

Summarize the project's importance and reiterate the call to action for potential investors, encouraging their participation and support.