

Feasibility study of swerve drives

2025-12-10

Saoto Tsuchiya

Quantitative study of the feasibility of swerve drive in wheelchair transport robot

Conditions

- Robot weight: 60kg
- Transported load: 100kg
- Maximum slope: 10 degrees
- Maximum step: 20mm

Traction Motor

駆動力/Traction force

搬送負荷をスロープで押し上げる力/ Force pushing up the transport load on the slope

$$F_p = 100\text{kg} * g * \sin(10\text{deg}) = 170\text{N}$$

自重も含めた駆動力/ Driving force including its own weight

$$F_t = 160\text{kg} * g * \sin(10\text{deg}) = 272\text{N}$$

1輪あたりの必要駆動力は、おおよそ/The required driving force per wheel, approximately

$$F_w = 80\text{N}$$

when the speed is 1m/s

$$P_o = 80\text{N} * 1\text{m/s} = 80\text{W}$$

eg1) Commercially available wheels



<https://www.amazon.co.jp/dp/B0BWYBLTK9>

These wheel motors look fine.

Cantilever in-wheel motor

6.5 inch wheel (ϕ 165mm)

e.g.)

https://www.alibaba.com/product-detail/6-5-Inch-Hoverboard-Motor-Wheel_1600458838462.html

Encoder must be included in

Steer Motor

ホイールのスピントルク/spin torque between wheel and ground

$$T_s = \mu mg r_f$$

Large coefficient of friction $\mu = 1.0$

Load $m = 20\text{kg}$

Effective Radius $r_f \approx 2/3 R$

When the Ground contact radius $R = 15\text{mm}$, $r_f \approx 10\text{mm}$

Thus,

$$T_s = 1.0 * 20\text{kg} * 9.8 * 0.01\text{m} \approx 2\text{Nm}$$

$\omega = 6 \text{ rad/s}$ (60rpm) spin speed seems to be enough. So, $2\text{Nm} * 6 = 12\text{W}$

When we use cantilever in-wheel motors, we can use a simple steering mechanism.

ex1) Automotive power window motor

<https://jp.robotshop.com/products/power-window-motor-with-coupling-right>

Rating speed : $60 \pm 15\text{RPM}$

Rating torque : 30Kg.cm (2.9Nm)

can use simple PWM controller

but, need an encoder



ex2) digital servo motor

<https://jp.robotshop.com/products/feetech-180-degrees-digital-servo-74v-35kg-cm-ft5330m>

Angle range: 180°

voltage: 7.4V

Torque: 35kg·cm (3.5Nm)

Need no encoder

Angle control available by PWM signal



Drive assembly

