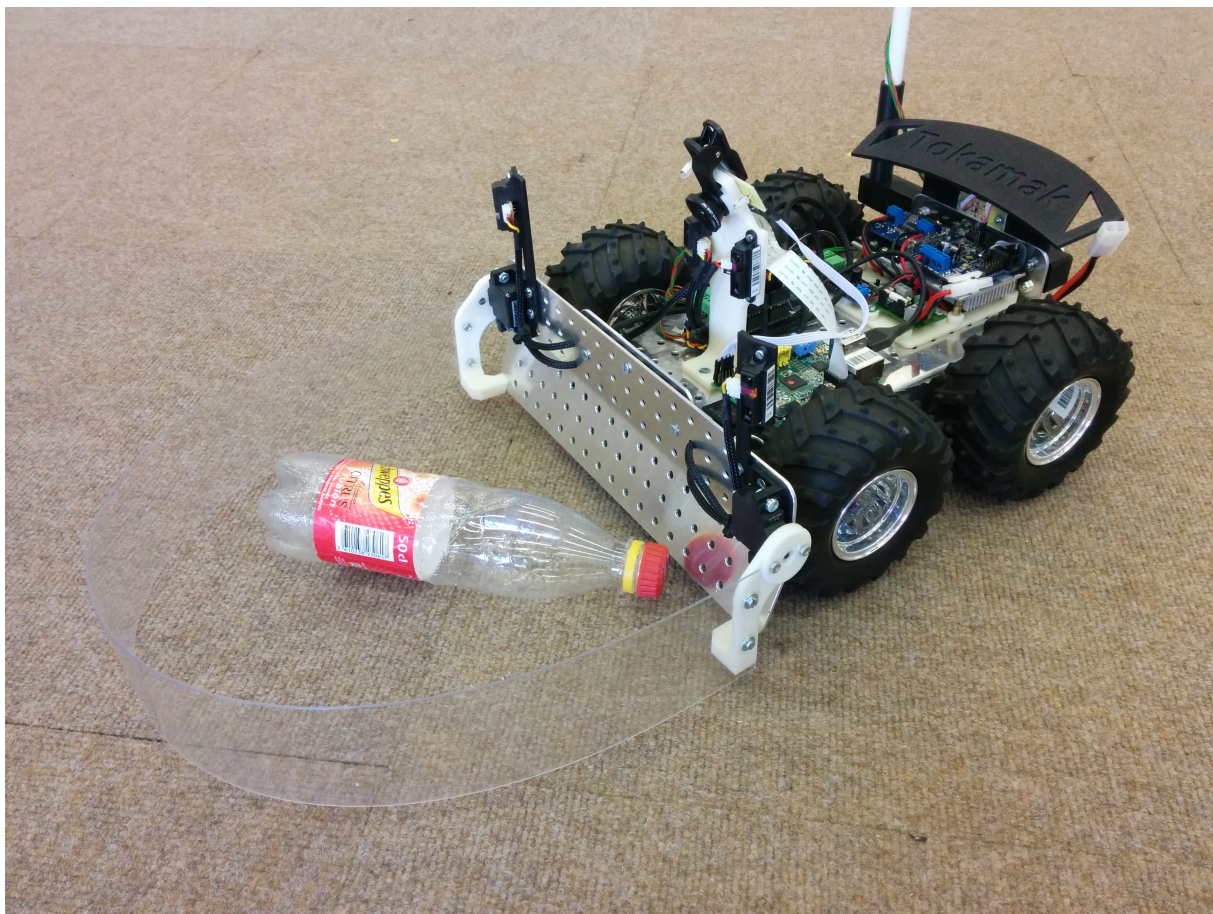


STI interdisciplinary robot competition

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11th June 2014



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1 ABSTRACT

The STI competition is a interdisciplinary Master semester project in form of a competition between five teams of three people from different educational backgrounds. The competition's goal is to design and build a litter collecting robot and outperform the other robots. The teams are given funds in order to buy parts, order custom parts from the in-house mechanics or make use of the available 3D printers.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 STI interdisciplinary robot competition

This semester project is about the design and conception of a litter collecting robot. Five teams of 3 members compete against each other, the teams have members from different educational backgrounds.

The team must use methodological product development approach as well as learn to communicate between peers of different educational backgrounds representing actual product development.

The teams are given 1000CHF that they can use to buy elements in order to build the robot and an additional 1000CHF "virtual" money that is used to order custom parts from workshops or made with 3D printers and reuse already available elements left from last year's competition.

An assistant is assigned per team to supervise the work, give advice and report to the professor in order to evaluate the group's work.

In the end the students will have received practical experience in product development with all that it implies: project development, time management, sourcing, communication, testing and competition.

We developed the most simple robot we could think of in order to have something working early on, the last year competitors had a lot of trouble during the testing and finishing part so we wanted to put as much effort as we could in the actual implementation process and thus we needed a simple platform that was easy to work on. In the end we made a small and very capable robot that was easy to maintain and modify.

2.2 Team members

Karl Kangur

Master student in Robotic and Autonomous System at EPFL where he did his whole degree course.

Marcel Starein

Master student in Robotic and Autonomous System at EPFL where he did his whole degree course.

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Master student in Mechanical Engineering at EPFL.

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Competition specifications

3.1.1 Arena

The arena is a $8 \times 8 m^2$ square area with different zones and the recycling area as the targeted delivery area, with obstacles (bricks) inside each zone. The main area is flat with a carpet-like floor, and it's the most accessible and bottles brought back from this zone, the 1st zone, give 10 points. The 2nd zone is covered with artificial grass making access a little bit more difficult and each bottle from that zone gives 20 points. The 3rd zone is surrounded by rocks which makes access quite difficult, bottles from this area give 40 points. Finally the 4th zone is a raised platform with 2 access points, one ramp (B2) and some stairs (B3), the bottles from this area also give 40 points.

The plan view of the arena is as figure 1 shows.

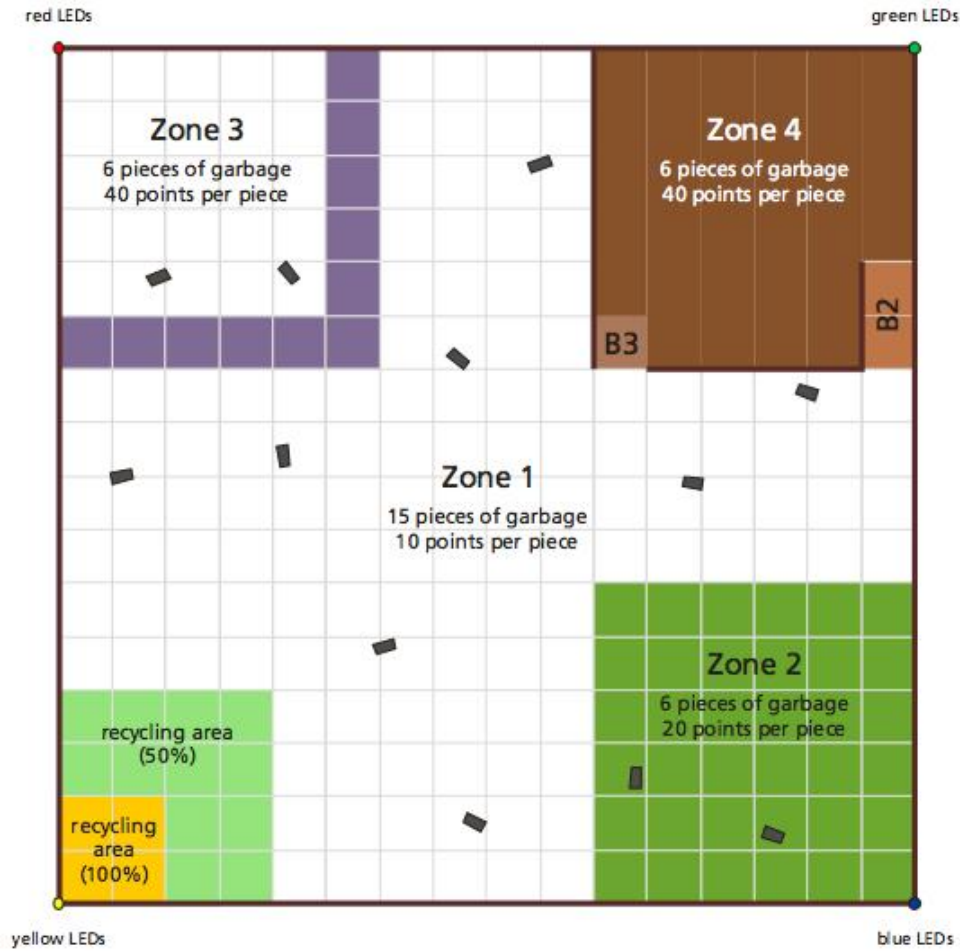
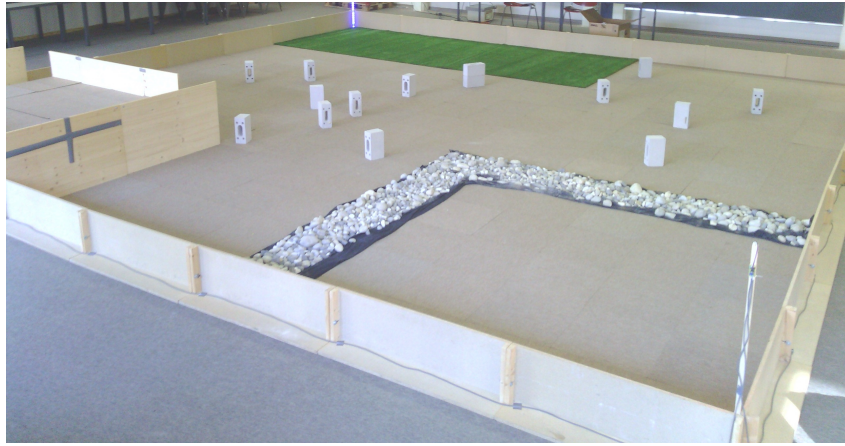


Figure 1: Arena

The actual whole arena and specific Zone 3 and Zone 4 are as figure 2 shows.



(a) Actual arena



(b) Zone 3



(c) Zone 4

Figure 2: Actual arena, Zone 3 and Zone 4. The brick obstacles are not positioned in the competition configuration, there should be 2 stacked bricks.

3.1.2 Bottles

The bottles are common plastic beverage bottles with the volume not exceeding 500ml, transparent or opaque ones, like the following figures, which are randomly placed in the garbage located areas.



Figure 3: Bottles

3.1.3 Goals

The robot must first explore the arena in order to find something. It must be capable of avoiding the obstacles (bricks), detect bottles and then somehow move the bottle to the recycling area, repeat the process and accumulate points to win.

3.2 Strategy options

3.2.1 Non-selective storage

3.2.1.1 Maximum volume storage

When exploring within the arena, the robot stores the maximum number of bottles at once, and then brings them all back to the recycling area.

3.2.1.2 Single-piece storage

When exploring within the arena, the robot stores only one bottle at once, and then brings it back to the recycling area.

3.2.2 Selective storage

Collect the bottles that yield the most points or focus on bringing back the most accessible bottles.

3.3 Selected solution

Since we wanted a simple robot we decided we'd focus on the main goals only, that is bringing back a single bottle, once that was done the robot could theoretically fetch other bottles or we could even make a multi-robot system. This solution had the main advantage of keeping the whole system easy to manage and build while keeping our options open for further development.

Our robot was thus built to bring back one bottle at a time and we conceived a simple bottle storage system that only needed 2 actuators. For bottle detection we decided to go with the same solution that the last year's group 5 did: a classifier using Haar Cascades algorithm that proved to be reliable, we also used the same hardware as they did (Raspberry Pi).

4 PROJECT ANALYSIS

We have applied the standard product development approach to help us decide on the best solution for this project, it begins with a list of needs and this will be the basis for the project scope. The items shall define the goals of the project and in no way hint to a solution.

4.1 List of needs

- Being able to move inside the arena
- No human interaction
- On-board computation
- Detect garbage
- Move garbage
- Dispose of garbage in the designated area
- Avoid obstacles
- Autonomy of at least 10 minutes

4.2 Function specification

4.2.1 External

The robot must be able to run automatically without interaction from external controller, and persist its stable behaviors to external noise and disturbance from the surrounding environment.

- No human interaction
- Robustness to external noise and disturbance

4.2.2 Internal

The robot must be able to move itself in the arena on wheels. It must detect and avoid obstacles, find the bottles and transport as many as possible back to the designated area in 10 minutes.

- Being able to move
 - Flat surface
 - Power autonomy for at least 10 minutes
 - Fast enough so that some waste could be collected within 10 minutes
- Localization
 - Find the recycling area
- Object detection
 - Differentiate between litter and obstacles
 - Avoid obstacles
- Manipulate objects
 - Move the litter

4.3 Critical technical points

The critical technical points were (in order): the locomotion, obstacle avoidance, bottle detection, bottle manipulation and finding the recycling area. We proceeded in this order to solve all these problems so that we could concentrate on one problem at a time.

4.4 Solutions identification

4.4.1 Movement

The first consideration is the robot's locomotion. Several strategies for its movement are listed in table 1, including the specific principles, advantages, disadvantages and risks corresponding to the strategies.

Table 1: Movement strategy

Strategy	Principle	Advantage	Disadvantage	Risk
Custom chassis	Custom-made chassis	Can take any form needed	Takes times to make	Might not finish building on time, might not work
Wild Thumper	Powerful differential mobile base	Can navigate any terrain. Readily available with the control electronics, can start working on it immediately	Requires adaptation	Motors might break when load too heavy
Rover 5	Differential mobile base on tracks	Can navigate any terrain	Must be ordered	May not be powerful enough
Cartesian robot	Moves in x-y axis over the whole terrain	Can move over any terrain	Too big and heavy, takes time to put in place, doesn't really go with the spirit of this competition	Too expensive
Quadcopter	Exploits the 3rd dimension	Can move over any terrain, can see everything from above	Not allowed	Getting disqualified
2-wheel differential robot	2 wheeled robot	Easy to control, only 2 motors	Needs a 3rd passive wheel	May not be powerful enough
Swedish wheels	Wheels on wheels. 4 wheels	Allows movement in any direction	Not as precise as conventional wheels, odometry very difficult. Cannot climb slopes	No net gain in locomotion compared to other methods
Hexapod	6 legged robot	Navigation through complex terrain	Hard to program, slow, lots of parts	Might take too long to implement
Quadruped	4 legged robot	Can move over any terrain	Statically unstable, difficult to control	Might take too long to implement
Biped	2 legged robot	Can access all terrains	Extremely difficult to program and control. Not statically stable	Too ambitious

Synchrodrive	All wheels turn synchronously and the chassis doesn't rotate	Nothing really	Requires a custom chassis and lots of moving parts	
Large robot arm	A serial robot that is placed in the middle of the arena and can reach any place on it	Can reach any area with ease	Extremely expensive. Difficult to put in place. Heavy, potentially dangerous	Probably too expensive. Might kill somebody
Crawling	Chassis consisting of multiple sections with actuated motors in-between	Can access all terrains	Very difficult to control, expensive and time consuming to make	Might not finish building on time, might not work
Hopping	Movement with a series of jumps	Can move over obstacles and large distances fast	Hard to control, to manufacture as there aren't any commercial products	Getting yelled at because it's a stupid idea
Hovercraft	Movement on an air cushion	Can move over any terrain	Cannot move up slopes, difficult to control, noise, needs a lot of power	Not enough autonomy, too complicated

In line with the design concept of "as simple as possible", and through the analysis of the advantages, disadvantages and risks for each listed strategy, a combination of customer chassis and Wild Thumper becomes the final decision, which means using the wheels of Wild Thumper and customer chassis, due to the following reasons. On one hand, customer chassis has more simple structure which is qualified enough for the flat arena, lower cost and more flexibility to add any needed components; on the other hand, the more powerful chassis of Wild Thumper makes itself oscillate more on flat arena, even though it is appropriate for many more extreme road conditions, which makes the robot body lack the stability while moving, not quite satisfying the objective of moving stable on flat arena, and easily creating some issues during the later sequence of robot behaviours.

4.4.2 Object detection

It is crucial for the robot to do object detection, including the bottles, the obstacles (bricks) and surrounding walls, so that it could do the sequence of behaviors containing avoiding the obstacles, avoiding the walls, and finding the bottles. Several strategies for object detection are listed in table 2, including the advantages, disadvantages and risks corresponding to the relative strategies.

Table 2: Object Detection Strategy

Strategy	Advantage	Disadvantage	Risk
Ultrasound	Linear response with distance, not affected by target materials, surfaces and color. Can detect small objects over long operating distances. Resistance to external disturbances such as vibration, infrared radiation, ambient noise, and EMI radiation	Must view a surface (especially a hard, flat surface) squarely (perpendicularly) to receive ample sound echo. Requires time for the transducer to stop ringing after each transmission burst before they are ready to receive returned echoes. Have a minimum sensing distance. Changes in the environment, target of density, smooth of surfaces affect ultrasonic response	False positive outputs due to a large operating angle, detecting an object other than the desired target.
Infrared	Detect infrared light from far distances over a large area. In real-time and detect movement.	Incapable of distinguishing between objects.	Strong infrared sources might be detected as obstacles.
Laser rangefinders	Better accuracy more quickly. Easy alignment by employing visible red laser beam. Detects of very small targets due to small measuring spot size	Suffer from laser noise, stray light, and speckle effects interference.	Detect an object other than the desired target.
Structured light	Can do 3D imaging using a simple and cheap algorithm.	Needs lots of processing power	Powerful computer needed.
Tactile sensors	Guaranteed obstacle detection. Allow physical interaction with objects	Must be close enough to the obstacle, cannot avoid without physical interaction.	Hit the obstacles while detecting
Color sensor	High speed, easy to use and relative intensity display.	Complex calibration and limited accuracy	Just detect objects with certain colours
Surface transducer	Less sensitive to surface condition	Low transduction efficiency	Need more time and detect an object other than the desired target
Camera	Cheaper, more informative and more compact	Limitation of its view fields	Might not detect the whole targeted space

Stereovision	Can do 3D vision.	Complex, poor dynamic range and still not very reliable	Powerful computer needed.
Millimeter Wave Radar	Accurate, excellent image identification and resolution	Too expensive.	More expensive than other technologies

At first we wanted to use only one camera to do everything in order to keep a simple system. The camera could do different kinds of image processing and in theory detect and differentiate all the objects. When testing we saw that the camera could not differentiate between the floor and walls using the color information and was actually quite slow when processing the video stream, this meant we had to use other sensors to complement the camera. In the end we chose to use the camera only for the bottle detection as it could do it reliably and use infra red sensors for wall and obstacle detection.

4.4.3 Bottle grasping

After the achievement of finding bottles, the actuator should have the capacity of grasping and storing the bottles, so that the robot could complete the recycling target. There are a lot of practical ways for the robot to the grasp bottles, and several strategies are listed in table 3, including the principles, advantages, disadvantages and risks corresponding to the relative strategies.

Table 3: Bottle Grasping Strategy

Strategy	Principle	Advantage	Disadvantage	Risk
Robotic arm	Arm with a few DDLs mounted onto the robot	Allows picking up bottle in every position and in every terrain	Difficult mechanical realisation and time consuming programming	Complex implementation. High possibility that mechanism won't work as intended for different situations
Clamp	Grabbing a bottle in front of the robot with a clamp	Depending on DDLs wanted, can be very easy to realise	Needs good precision in positioning to grab a bottle	Not being able to position the robot to pickup the bottle
Suction	Suction mechanism to hold bottles	Easy pick-up and release	Requires compressor, energy consuming, can be hard to position on bottle	No good seal between bottle and suction mechanism, therefore not being able to apply enough suction
Pushing	Bottle being rolled with the robots chassis	No extra mechanical parts	Can be hard to perform complex movements while keeping bottle pushed. Hard when bottle positioned close to an edge or corner	Losing the bottle underway, hence losing time with trying to recuperate it if it is even possible
Storage bay for single bottle	Robot ingests bottle inside a storage bay	Easy mechanical implementation, carrying bottle around relatively easy	Must return to base for every single bottle, must be well aligned with the bottle	Low risk
Storage bay for multiple bottles	Robot ingests bottle inside a storage bay, while being able to store a few of them	No time lost going back to the base each time	Robot ingests bottle inside a storage bay, hard to implement storage system, requires a bigger robot	Failure of the storage system, not releasing or stocking bottles correctly
Deployable cage	Deploying a cage to surround the object, and bring it back to the base. The bottle rolls on the floor	Very easy to implement, bottle position doesn't have to be exact, can grab bottle in any position or orientation	Can't bring bottle over rough terrain, only one bottle at a time	Low risk

Harpoon	Throwing a harpoon to grab a bottle	Robot doesn't need to move around much	Requires good precision, launching system, retrieval system	Failure to aim correctly, and for the harpoon to pierce the bottle
Net	Throwing a net	Robot doesn't need to move around much	Requires good precision, launching system, retrieval system	Failure to aim correctly, net not deploying as planned
Compressed air	Blowing compressed air on the bottle to move the bottle around	No mechanical moving part	Complex aiming and bottle trajectory planing, requires compressor or to carry compressed air	Hard to predict bottle movement
Scotch	Sticky surface	Cheap, big supply	Adhesive wears off with dust	Bottle does not stick to it

In accordance with the concept of "as simple as possible", and through the analysis of the advantages, disadvantages, and risks for each listed strategy, deployable cage becomes the final decision, which calls for much more simple mechanical structure, and actuator motion to grasp and store bottles, with less cost and risk but more availability and reliability.

4.4.4 Localisation

The robot had to have a way to go back to the recycling area when it had collected a bottle so it had to have some information about where that goal was. It didn't really need to know where it was with absolute positioning on the arena as it was meant to roam around randomly to find the bottles anyway. As long as it could find the recycling area after having collected a bottle it was enough. Several localisation strategies are listed in table 4, including the advantages, disadvantages and risks corresponding to the relative strategies.

Table 4: Localisation Strategy

Strategy	Advantage	Disadvantage	Risk
Beacon-based positioning	Active beacons available on the terrain	External conditions may influence results and interfere with sensor values	Sensible to environmental conditions
Odometry or encoders	Easy to implement in software, integrated into motors. Very precise	Cumulative error. Absolute positioning still required	Wheel slip makes robot lost immediately
Inertial measurement unit	Cheap and easy to integrate, ready-made boards exist with Kalman filters that return the x-y position	Cumulative error. Absolute positioning still required	Fast accelerations might disturb the system

Global positioning system	Absolute position anywhere on earth	Cannot be used inside. Consumes a lot of power. Not precise (+/-3m)	Won't work
Motion field and optic flow	Precise, fast	Cumulative error. Absolute positioning still required	
RFID	Available. Absolute positioning	Not easy to detect, need to be right over it to detect it	Robot might not pass over a tag for a long time
Linear cameras	Easy to implement	Needs a powerful light source from a beacon. Might interfere with other surrounding lights	
SLAM (camera)	Can be made to be very robust, use existing algorithms	Complex to use, heavy processing needed	Too slow or not enough time to optimal implementation
Markovian localisation (camera)	Particle filter localization. Algorithm estimates the position and orientation of a robot as it moves and senses the environment	Terrain changes (removed litter)	Might not converge to actual robot position
Monte Carlo localization (camera)	Grid-based localization, which uses a histogram to represent the belief distribution	Terrain changes (removed litter)	Might not converge to actual robot position
SURF, SIFT... (camera)	Feature point detection	Terrain changes (removed litter). Needs a lot of computing power	Might not converge to actual robot position
Color blob based localisation (camera)	Detect colors on images and interpret. Active beacons around the arena can be used. Terrain features are of different color	Bottles are transparent. Computationally expensive	Might not converge to actual robot position
Kinect	3D imaging, depth information can be useful	Needs a powerful computer to process data and correlate to a virtual map	Too time consuming
Visual odometry (ego-motion) (camera)	Existing algorithms	Needs a lot of computing power	Computationally too expensive, cumulative error

Since the camera is focused on the bottle detection, to reduce the complexity of localisation and the workload of the camera, the localisation strategy which adopts camera will not be considered,

which corresponds to the concept of "as simple as possible". Taking the availability, implementation difficulty, reliability and cost into account, the inertial measurement unit becomes the final decision. Since the target is just to let the robot go to one certain direction that directs the robot to the recycling area, which is fixed, the absolute heading direction for the robot to is the same, wherever the robot is within the arena. Then the inertial measurement unit is used as a compass for absolute heading towards the direction parallel to the recycling area. When a wall is detected the robot will simply follow it until it finds the only corner which means it has reached to goal.

4.5 Risk analysis

We first identified the problems the groups competing last year had, to summarise: all projects were way too complicated and it took them a long time to get the mechanical parts they ordered, once they had them they didn't have much time to test the robot before the competition and thus they couldn't fix the minor problems they didn't think of at the time. We took note of that and that was the main reason we searched for a simple solution from the beginning.

The risks we had with our project were mainly the locomotion and software. One of the groups last year broke their motors right before the competition and their robot couldn't move, so the motors have already been a problem and we needed to test them to make sure they worked well. The software needed to be quite complex and took time to write, so we started to test early on with the vision system and see what performance we got from the image processing. Again last year multiple groups were far from ready in terms of robot intelligence during the competition and were not able to complete the required tasks.

4.6 Gantt diagram

The main tasks and development plan are as follows, and detailed Gantt diagram is seen in appendix A.

- MS1: Function analysis and solutions identification
- MS2: Function analysis and solutions refinement
- MS3: Development of key functions individually, Refinement of design, Planifications of project, Feasibility study
- Development and production according to planning
- Software development
 - Bottle detection algorithm
 - Object and obstacle detection algorithm
 - Motor controller programming (H-bridge)
- Hardware development
 - New 4WD chassis (custom made)
 - Component sourcing
 - Deployable cage
- Final assembly
- Trials and optimisation, Testing in real conditions on the arena
- Rehearsal competition
- MS4: Competition, Report writing

5 PROJECT DESIGN

5.1 Robot design

Our robot was designed using an incremental approach. We designed the various systems and pieces one after the other, making sure everything is working before passing to the next sub system.

Hardware and software were developed in parallel. On the hardware side, we started with the motor controller, linking it to all 4 motors and performing various tests. We performed tests with the motors in order to determine the required reduction gear. Then, we proceeded with the 5V power supply and with the Arduino board. Once the two were connected through I2C, and testing had been done, we proceeded with connecting the IR sensors, IMU unit and the servo motors. During all phases, the different components were linked together with veroboards. Once everything had been tested, we created final printed circuit boards.

5.2 Hardware

5.2.1 Motors

We initially opted for using the WildThumper chassis, with its wheels and motors, as a base for our robot. However, when we first tried out the chassis, we discovered several flaws. One of them being the springs for the chassis' adaptation to extreme road conditions, which makes robot oscillate more when moving on the flat arena. Therefore, we made a custom chassis, but kept the motors and wheels.

Initially, we had motors with 34:1 reduction gears, which we thought were fast and powerful enough for our light robot design. However, after initial testing, we discovered that these motors offered far too low torque at low speeds and hence decided to try out 75:1 motors. Again, these motors didn't offer enough torque at low speeds in order to move our robot, and therefore we finally switched to 172:1 gearing ratio.

We tried both high powered and low powered motors as the motors were sold in 2 types, the high power motor offering more torque as per the specifications. However, the high powered motors aren't reliable enough for our taste, as the 172:1 version can easily break the gearing, we actually broke one motor simply when testing it without any load, that shows how reliable these motors are and we cannot recommend them for the next year competition.

We finally opted for 172:1 low powered motors, which allow us to attain reasonable speeds and also let us move slowly. The robot needs to be able to move slowly because it is limited by the slower image processing script used for bottle detection.

5.2.2 Servomotors

We first tried using standard, lower priced servos, in order to actuate the cage. However, the servo-arms offered with those servos weren't strong enough in order to directly screw the cage onto them. Therefore, we decided to order metal arms, as well as new metal servos which would rigidify our cage mechanism. However, once receiving the servos, we busted one and hence decided to go back to the smaller servos, which, with an adapted arm mount, custom 3D printed, ended up offering good performance.

5.2.3 Cage

The cage was initially designed to be square, and when in the upper position, placed around the robot. We quickly found it would be much easier to create a cage which wouldn't surround the

whole robot, but stay against the upper position of the robot chassis, as we remove the risk of getting the cage stuck with the chassis or the wheels. We opted for a round design, which doesn't need any precise folding and being constrained is more rigid.



Figure 4: Deployable bottle cage

We tried searching for transparent materials, which would allow us to let the camera see through the cage. We also wanted a material which deforms in case an unwanted collision occurred. We ended up opting for a transparent plastic, linked to the servo with custom printed 3D parts.

5.3 Electronics

5.3.1 Raspberry Pi

The Raspberry Pi is a very cheap and relatively powerful small 700MHz computer (figure 5). We chose it because we already had some experience working with it and it has a significant community behind it that could help us out in case of problems.

5.3.2 Raspberry Pi camera

For the imaging system there was two alternatives: use a USB webcam or buy the Raspberry Pi Camera module as seen in figure 6. Since with the webcam, the USB bus would have been a bottleneck in terms of data exchange with the processor, we opted for the Raspberry Pi Camera, not only could it take very high resolution pictures (8MP) with a decent quality but also it was very fast in image acquisition and as we needed live image processing this was an important aspect.

5.3.3 PRismino

We decided to use this board as it was cheap and available. It's an Arduino clone board made by the EPFL robotics club - Robopoly (figure 7).

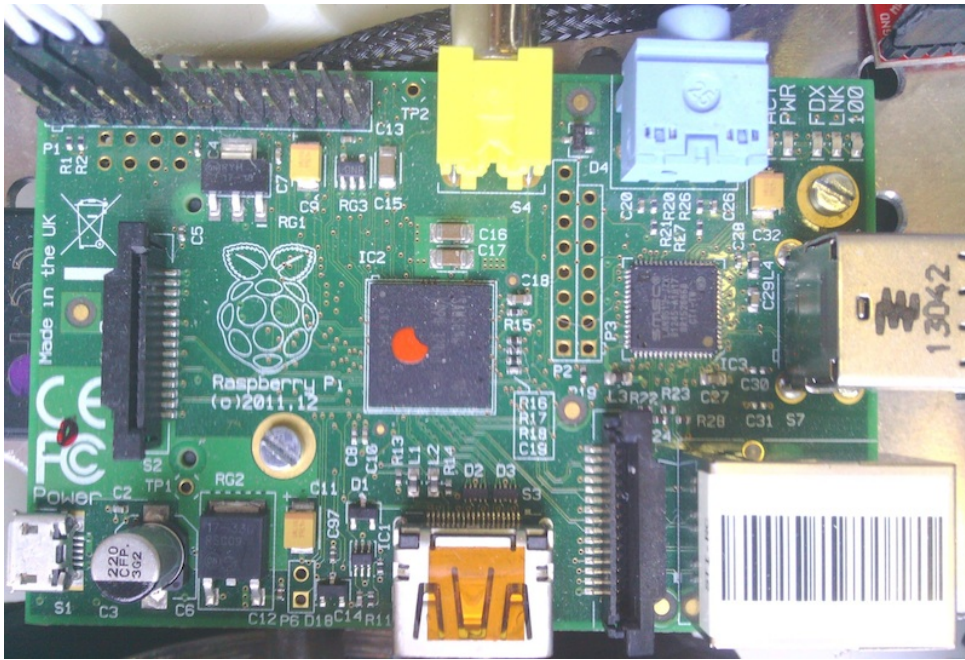


Figure 5: Raspberry Pi on-board computer running Linux and OpenCV image processing software



Figure 6: Raspberry Pi camera module

It offers more than enough control pins for all our sensors and servos. The Arduino boards have a very large community and most libraries are already existing, which make them very easy to implement and use effectively and fast.

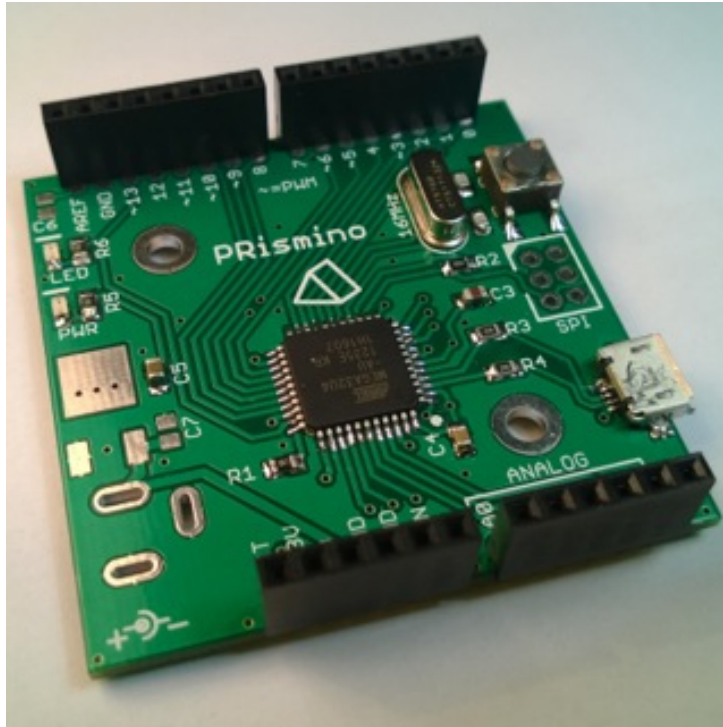


Figure 7: Robopoly robotics platform micro-controller board

We also made a custom shield for our PRismino, which offers connectors for the servo motors and IR sensors. It also offers 3.3V I^2C lines, a buzzer and a Bluetooth module for wireless communication, in order to test our robot's functions easily and for debugging.

5.3.4 Motor controller

Since we were initially using the WildThumper, we also chose the WildThumper motor controller shown in figure 8. Since we already had the board implemented correctly, we didn't want switch to another controller once we decided to ditch the WildThumper.

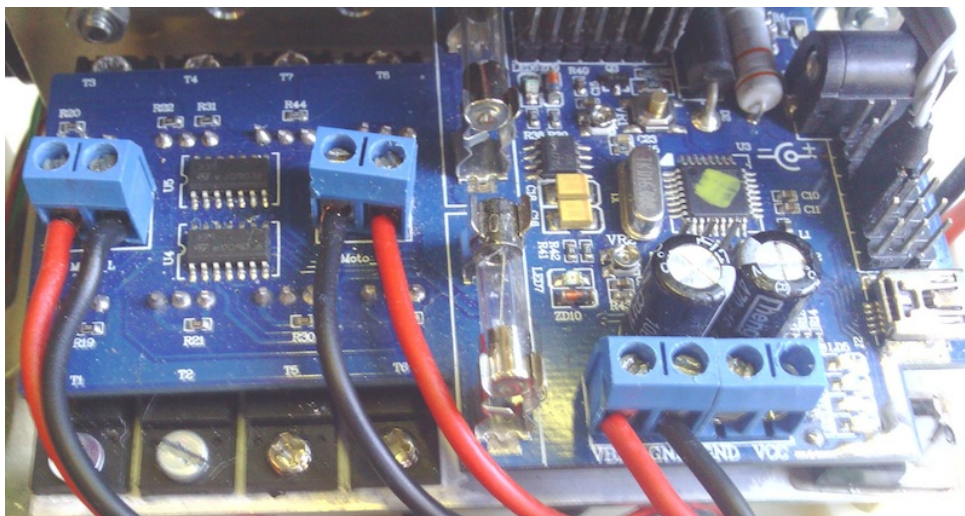


Figure 8: Motor controller for powering the wheels.

On top of that, the controller was initially designed to work with the WildThumper motors,

which we were using. It is also equipped with an Arduino, which makes it easily reprogrammable and easy to integrate with the PRismino

We reprogrammed the WildThumper micro controller to use its timers more efficiently than the provided code, the new code was based on the Robopoly shield that has a similar way of controlling its H-bridge.

5.3.5 Compass

5.3.5.1 MPU-9150

This IMU unit offers 3 axis acceleration, gyro and compass outputs and has an integrated DSP (figure 9). Unfortunately InvenSense has a discouragement policy, by not supplying enough information for the use of the DMP. It works at 3.3V, instead of using logic level converters, as the PRismino works with 5V, we simply use pull-up resistors to 3.3V on the I^2C lines which works just as well.

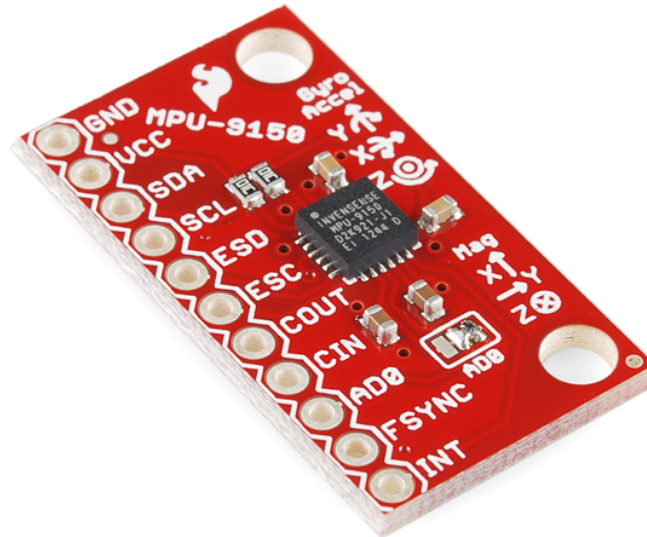


Figure 9: MPU-9150 breakout board

5.3.5.2 GY-85

The GY-85 (figure 10) is a very cheap and also very capable IMU. Instead of having 1 chip that does all like the MPU-9150 it has 3 chips: one for acceleration, one for gyroscope and a compass. It also has a 3.3V supply and logic level converter for the I2C lines making it compatible with 5V logic. When we compared the MPU-9150 and GY-85 we found that the GY-85 was easier to use and we could drive our I2C lines at 5V, so we opted for this option.

5.3.6 5V regulator

As the on-board 5V regulator on the motor controller is a linear regulator (LM1084) we decided that for safety we would decouple the controller and Raspberry Pi from each other. We used the TPS62133 switching step-down regulator, which was part of the kit developed by the EPFL

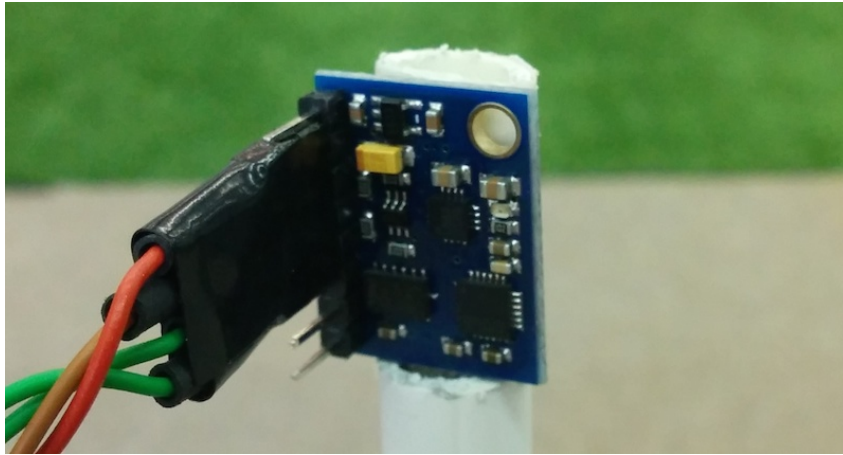


Figure 10: GY-85 IMU board

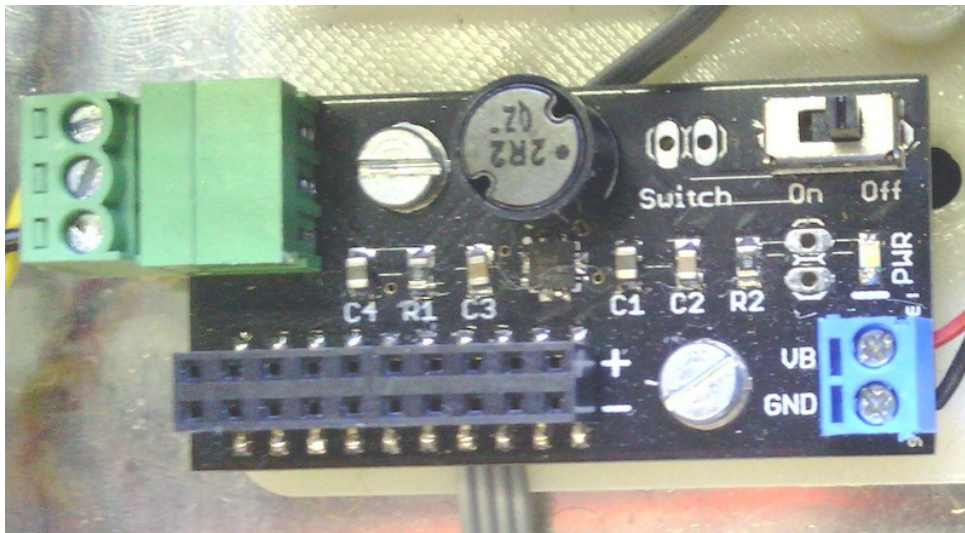


Figure 11: 5 volt regulator for powering all the logic electronics.

robotics club (Robopoly) as shown of figure 11. This allowed us to get efficient 5V regulation for the logic part of the robot as the Raspberry Pi was consuming quite a lot of power (300-400mA).

We also noticed that the motor controller 5V regulator actually output 5.54V instead, this was out of specifications for the Raspberry Pi as well as the micro controller on the motor controller, which might have an effect on its longevity. Again we must point out the lack of quality with Pololu products.

5.3.7 Power

Our estimations showed us that the available 7.2V, 3000mAh NiMH battery was more than enough to power the robot for the expected 10 minutes of the competition. So we bought 2 with the virtual budget. During testing one could last almost a complete day any they recharged in only 1 hour.

5.3.8 Custom PCBs

We made a custom connector shield to connect all the sensors and to have the buzzer, I2C lines for compass and motor controller communication and Bluetooth (figure 12). This made it look much nicer and more reliable than prototyping cables that were all over the robot.

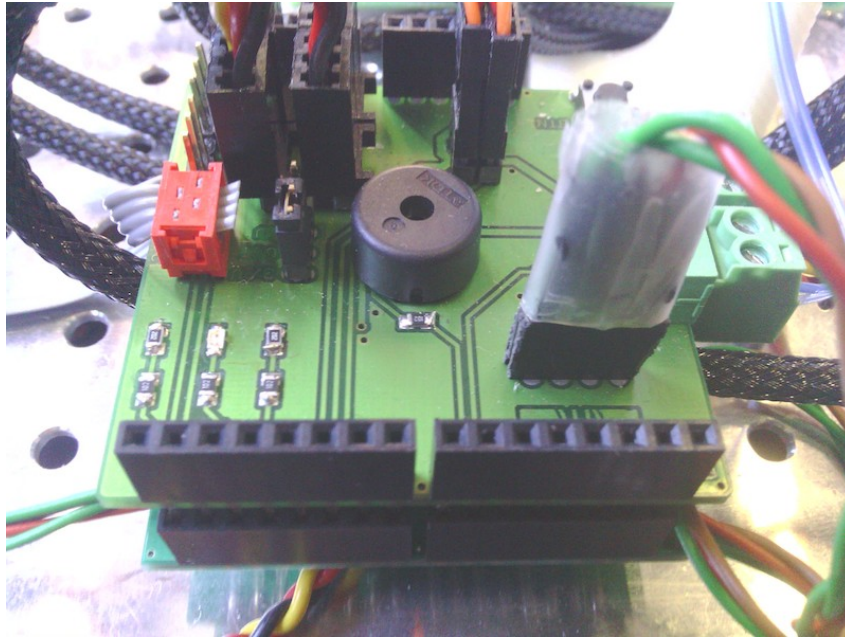


Figure 12: Custom connector shield PCB

We also made a PCB for the front lights, we found that when we wanted to use the camera as obstacle detection system we could see the bricks better when some light was shining on them, so we made a PCB for high-power LEDs that were attached besides the camera. We also made a small PCB for rear lights (figure 13) to make the back look like Formula 1 cars in case of low-visibility on the arena.

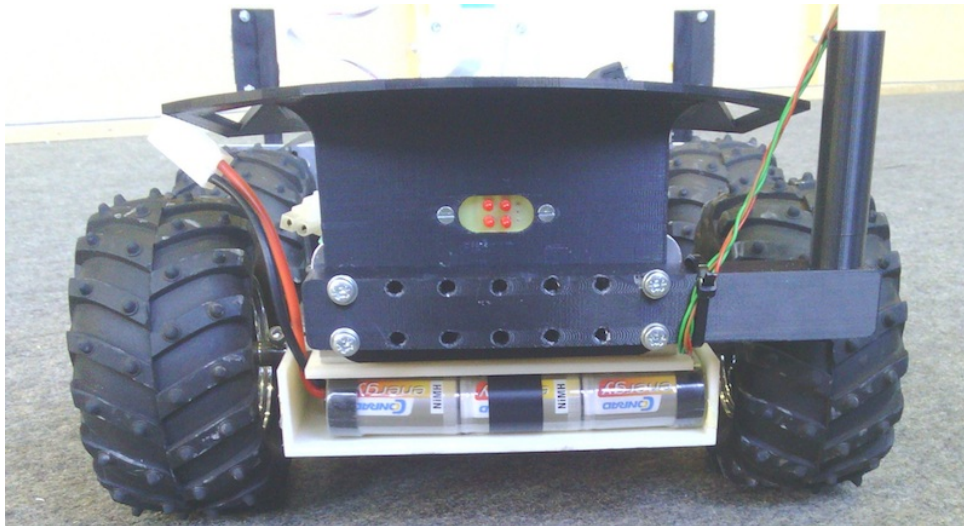


Figure 13: Back lights

5.4 Communication between modules

The PRismino, motor controller board and magnetometer unit are all connected onto a 3.3V I^2C bus. The Prismo serves as the master, and controls all motors as well as reads all sensors. The Raspberry Pi, on the other hand, is communicating via serial (USB) with the PRismino. The Raspberry is sending bottle positions to the Prismo.

Since the Raspberry Pi is quite a complex system and may fail in unexpected ways such as memory corruption we had a backup plan where the robot isn't able to bring back bottles, but can still roam around using a simple collision avoidance program on the PRismino and the IR sensors.

5.5 Mechanical design

5.5.1 Bought parts

The components bought with virtual budget and real budget are respectively shown in Table 5 and Table 6 as follows.

Table 5: Expenses for parts bought with the virtual budget

Part	Quantity	Price (CHF)	Total (CHF)	Description
Raspberry Pi	1	36.20	36.20	Main computer board for the robot intelligence, does the image processing of the camera.
Raspberry Pi Camera	1	31.55	31.55	Camera for robot vision
SD Card 8 GB	1	10.00	10.00	Needed for the Raspberry Pi
Motor controller	1	75.70	75.70	Wild Thumper motor controller
Battery	1	19.95	19.95	NiMH rechargeable battery pack
Fuse board	1	0.00	0.00	Battery connector/fuse board for security
Motor	4	34.95	139.80	172:1 DC motor with encoder
Wheel	4	7.50	30.00	WildThumper 120x60 mm wheel
IR sensor	4	18.60	74.40	80 cm IR proximity sensor
9 Degrees of Freedom IMU	1	34.95	34.95	Used as compass for robot return
Total			472.50	

5.5.2 Custom parts

We asked the mechanics to make some of the parts for the robot as they had to be adapted for the task in hand. The chassis was custom made as the WildThumper chassis was impractical and bulky, and we needed a solid frame with lots of attachment points in order to mount all the electronics on it.

Although the WildThumper chassis does have a lot of holes and is quite versatile, but we did not want to have the suspension which could influence the camera's point of view, and indeed if the robot was swaying every which way, the camera, which had to be quite high, would move a lot as well, and the image processing would have been affected.

The custom chassis was made to be easily manufactured and as modular as possible, and we ended up with two pieces of 2mm thick aluminium sheet metal parts that had to be bent. The main chassis part had holes for the 4 motors and lots of holes for electronics mounting. The

Table 6: Expenses for parts bought with the real budget

Part	Quantity	Price (CHF)	Total (CHF)	Provider
Commande Conrad	1	159.10	159.10	Conrad
Commande Pololu	1	211.37	211.37	Pololu
Header 1x3P, 6373-A3A-102/2223-2031, Molex	10	0.14	1.40	Distrelec
PRismino	1	7.00	7.00	Robopoly
Bluetooth module (HC-05)	1	6.00	6.00	Robopoly
Lentille optique	1	7.00	7.00	Robopoly
Composants électriques pour shield	1	3.00	3.00	Robopoly
Sevomoteurs	3	10.00	30.00	Robopoly
Power-board	1	5.00	5.00	Robopoly
Divers composants électroniques	1	5.00	5.00	Robopoly
TVA	1	5.00	5.00	Robopoly
GY-85 6DOF 9DOF IMU Sensor Module	1	8.5	8.5	DealExtreme
Total			448.37	

second part was a plow that had the function of pushing the bottles, otherwise the robot would have rolled over the bottles, and also it held the servomotors for the deployable cage. It took three weeks for the 2 custom parts to be made.

As the hole separation on the custom chassis could be arbitrary, we decided for 16mm separation as this makes it compatible with LEGO parts as they are perfect for very fast prototyping.

5.5.3 3D printed parts

We had a total of ten 3D printed parts on the robot to hold our various electronic parts on the custom chassis.

- Battery holder
- H-bridge, fuse board and 5V regulator board support
- Raspberry Pi support
- Camera support
- Servo motor holders
- IR sensor supports
- Cage - servo links
- PRismino support
- Compass holder
- Read cage support

We also made some prototype parts that needed to be modified, but did not end up on the robot itself, which were also included in the 3D printed parts total cost. In total we spent 186.01CHF on the printed parts.



Figure 14: 3D printed rear cage support with robot name on it

5.6 Budget management

We tried using as many parts as possible available from the catalogue, as they are easily available and we were able to continue our project as fast as possible. Of course, some of the components required, such as the small servos for the cage, weren't available and hence were bought with the real budget.

The whole budget for this project is shown in Table 7 as follows.

Table 7: Expenses for the whole budget

Provider	Virtual budget(CHF)	Real budget (CHF)
Distrelec	0.00	1.40
Pololu	0.00	211.37
Robopoly	0.00	68.00
Conrad	0.00	159.10
Virtual	472.50	0.00
3D printed parts	186.01	0.00
DealExtreme	0.00	8.50
Total	658.51	448.37

5.7 Software

The software design approach is similar to the rest of the project, and keeping it simple is the most important. According to the targeted functions, the design theory and flowchart is shown as Figure 15.

The obstacle avoidance was the first thing we had to implement, this meant that the robot was able to roam around without hitting anything and thus the next step of actually detecting bottles could be implemented.

The obstacle detection is done using the camera and 4 infra-red sensors on the front of the robot, as the camera cannot discern between the floor and wall colors (maybe this could be changed in the next year's competition) we had to use additional sensors.

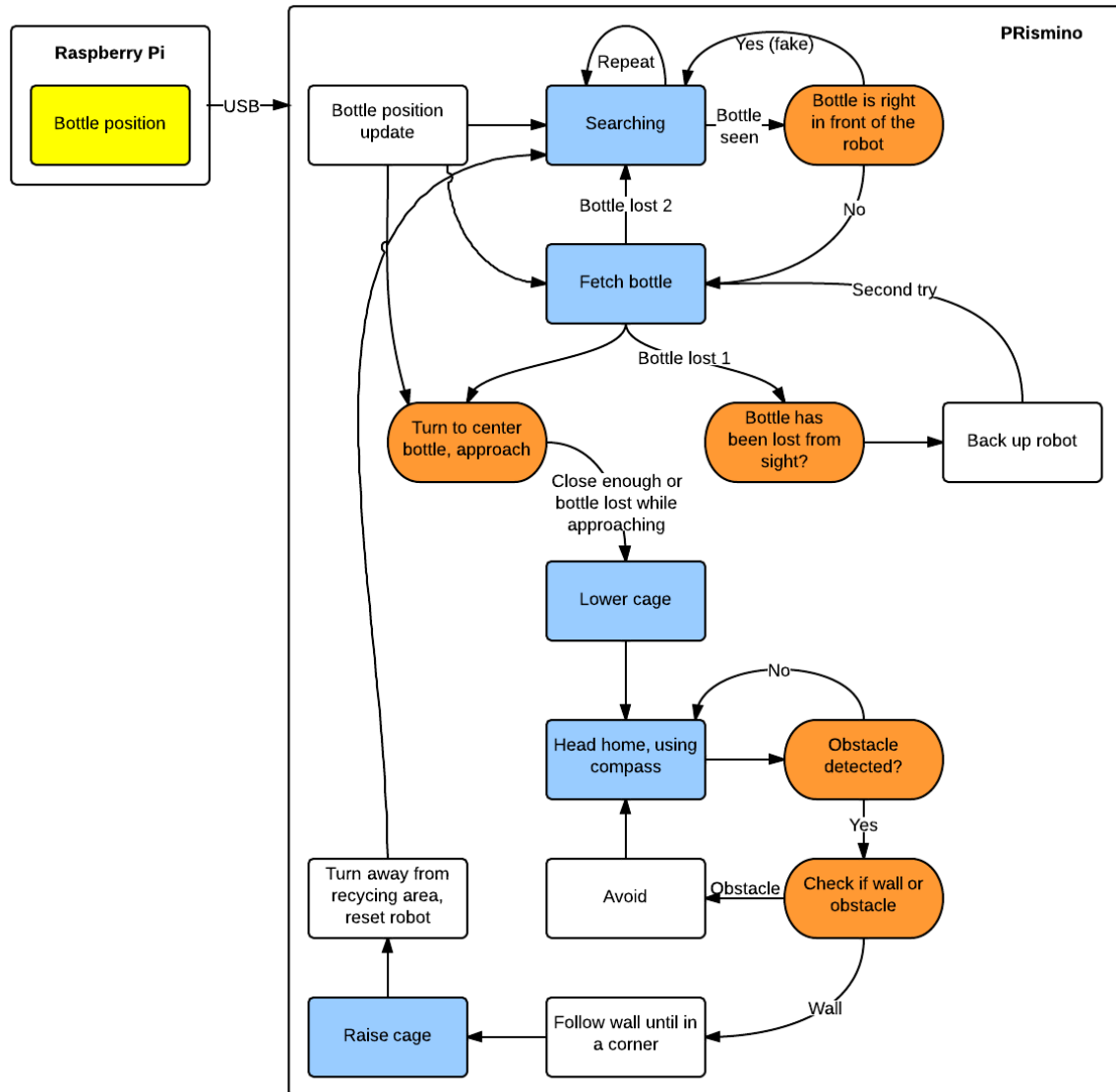


Figure 15: Program flowchart as a state machine

6 TESTING

6.1 Navigation

There are several tasks during the navigation, including the avoidance of obstacles, finding the recycling area, and the appropriate time point to grasp or release bottles. And as one of most important sensors for the robot, IR sensors simply returned analog values according to if something was blocking it or not, and we interpreted this on the PRismino and made it avoid obstacles, find a wall when homing and follow a wall when trying to reach the recycling area.

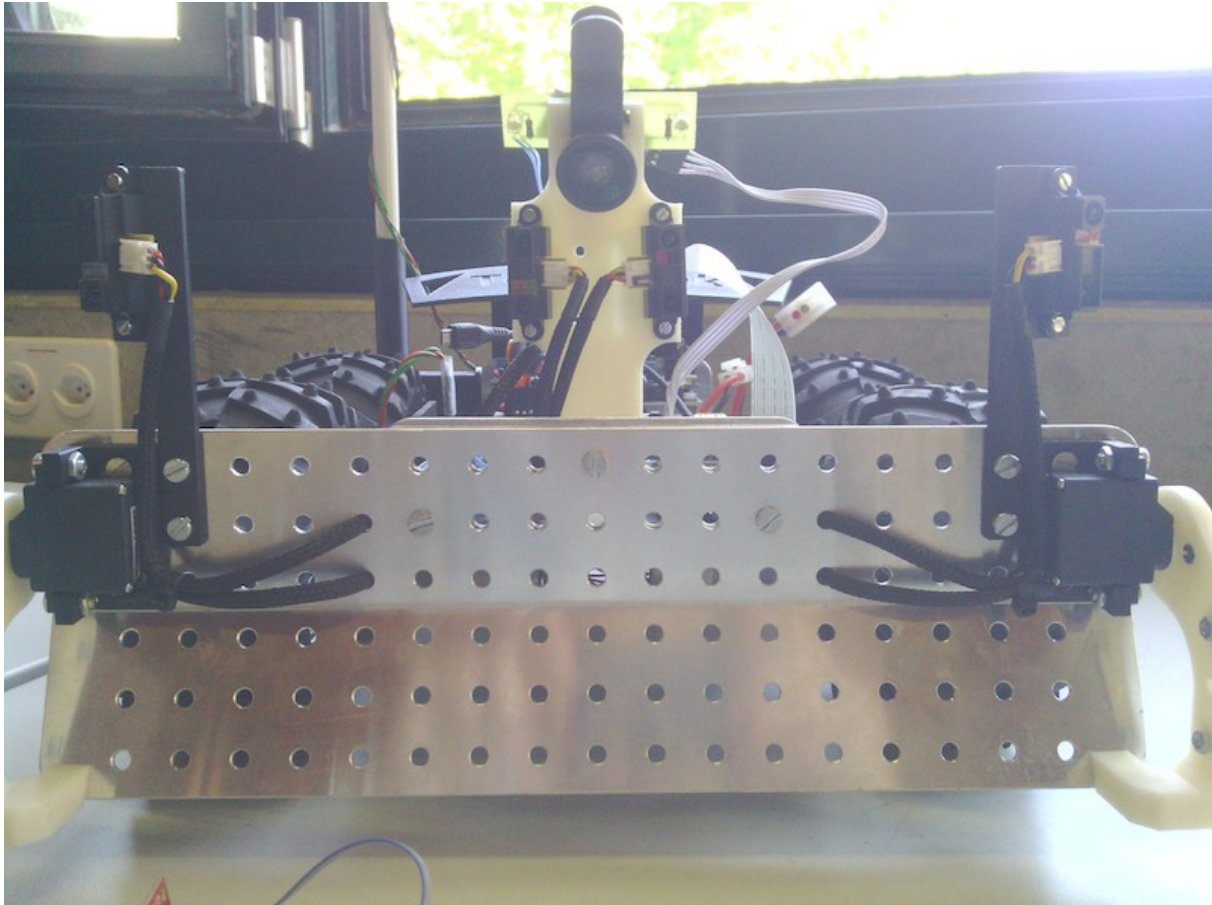


Figure 16: Front sensors for navigation and bottle detection, 1 camera and 4 infra-red sensors. Some high-power LEDs besides the camera allow the robot to detect bottles in the dark.

6.1.1 Obstacle avoidance

4 Infrared sensors are used for obstacle avoidance, and using some simple thresholding values the robot is able to avoid all bricks and walls inside the arena. The IR sensors are located at a high enough position to only detect bricks. However, this system will also detect bottles which are standing up as the obstacles, and hence will not be picked up by the system. The obstacle avoidance is implemented in the navigation function, and will always be "active" when the robot is moving forward. Hence, when a desired heading is given and an obstacle is in the way, the robot will not follow the desired heading but instead avoid the obstacle.

6.1.2 Finding the recycling area

Once a bottle has been collected, the robot uses the compass readout to follow the heading of the base. The robot will start searching for a wall. Each time it encounters an obstacle it will check

if the obstacle is a brick or a Wall. If a wall has been detected, the robot will determine if it has encountered the left or right wall, and if a brick is detected, it will simply continue towards the desired heading while avoiding the obstacle. The robot will then follow the wall until it reaches the recycling area.

We wanted to put the compass right behind the camera for it to be accessible, but it turned out that being so close to the floor affected the compass in unpredictable ways as there were metal bars in the building structure. After having done various tests, it was discovered that if the compass is placed high enough, at least 60 cm above the ground, it will not be affected by the metallic structures. Hence, the compass is placed on a pole which allows to ensure correct heading readouts.

6.2 Bottle grasping

The first strategy we had was to use the camera for obstacle and bottle detection, but when we tried in real conditions, the changing lighting conditions made it impossible to make a robust system using the low level image processing we wanted (color thresholding) so we had to abandon this idea. We also wanted to use the camera to detect the yellow beacon, but it was really hard to see it from far away.

Finally we decided that we would only use the camera to report all the bottle positions as it was already a slow algorithm and use lower-level sensors for obstacle avoidance (IR sensors) and homing (compass) with another micro-controller (the PRismino).

Bottle grasping was based on the last year competition group 5 approach. They used the same hardware and bottle detection, and they had created the classifier for the Haar Cascade algorithm to recognise plastic bottles, aluminium cans and glass bottles (which was their goal), which took them 3 days to generate.

We tested it with our script and it worked really well. Instead of reusing their C++ code we wanted to make something different at first, but ended up doing the same approach, that is dedicating bottle detection to a higher level computer and doing lower level computation with a micro-controller. Since the deadline was really close and we had a tested system we stuck with our program.

6.2.1 Electronics interfacing

The Raspberry Pi worked with 3.3V and the Rismino at 5V and applying 5V to the Raspberry Pi pins could damage it, then we found an elegant solution of using the USB port of the Raspberry Pi. It turns out the Raspberry Pi can be powered via the USB port with 5V, so we connected the PRismino and the Raspberry Pi via USB, and power was going from the PRismino to the Raspberry Pi, but communication from the Raspberry Pi to the PRismino via the serial connection to send the information about the bottle position.

We could not use I2C as there was an issue of the Raspberry Pi not being able to be set as slave. We needed the PRismino to control the I2C elements like the motor controller and compass, so even if we wanted we couldn't have used this communication method.

6.2.2 Programming language selection

When choosing the programming language we had to consider multiple things: computation power needed for image processing algorithms, experience with the language, available libraries, etc. The most important aspect was to get something to work in order to see how the camera performs and then work on optimising and making the code run faster.

After installing the Raspberry Pi camera driver [2] we first tried to make a test program using Python language, and it was relatively easy to implement image processing using OpenCV as there are lots of examples on the Internet and in the OpenCV documentation.

Then we tried some lower level approach with C++, also using OpenCV image processing libraries. The frame rate was better compared to Python, but it used the OpenCV native methods to grab the frames which could be improved on.

Josh Larson has developed a camera API [1] for the Raspberry Pi camera that uses the Multi-Media Abstraction Layer (MMAL) which is a Broadcom API and allows for lower level camera access than OpenCV methods. This improved the frame rate yet more.

6.2.3 Benchmarks

We ran some benchmarks to compare the 3 methods we tested in order to get a good idea on the performance gains: C++ using MMAL, C++ with native OpenCV functions and Python using the Picamera package [4].

The tests consisted of running the same image processing algorithms that we considered for the competition and we also compared with or without preview as while programming we needed visual feedback as to see what the camera was doing, but during the competition there won't be a screen and it adds some significant overhead.

The results were interesting as with a small image of 256 by 128 pixels we obtained similar results in frame capture using Python and C++ with MMAL where as native OpenCV functions were much slower. Showing the the preview window made only a difference of about 1 frame per second.

In the end we kept Python as our main programming language because it was much simpler to implement and offered decent speed when doing image processing. Some important aspects such as serial communication with the PRismo and memory management require very tedious work and having to compile the program with C++ every time we needed testing was wasting too much time.

The final program has quite a complex structure using multiple threads for serial communication and image processing. Python offers a very easy way to implement all these features, but has some overhead compared to C++. We made the compromise of having a slower program on the Raspberry Pi than we could have made, but one we knew was tested and reliable enough.

6.3 Simulation in Webots

We used Webots to simulate our robot in a virtual environment, identical to the competition arena for the most part. Webots allows to simulate mobile robots and to make a completely custom robot type, and it can even import 3D models from other programs such as SolidWorks. We modeled our robot and the arena to have an idea on the issues that may arise during the competition. It was really helpful to have this tool as we immediately saw some potential problems that would've taken a lot of time to fix later.

The potential problems we saw were the camera position: the robot could not see all the area in front of it and thus some obstacles might remain outside of its field of view, if it were to collide with them it could get stuck. We tried two solutions for this: moving the camera back or use a 180° lens in order to widen the field of view. Cellphone lens' are really cheap nowadays and we got some off of eBay, but the delivery was really slow so thanks to the simulation we were able to order the parts early in the competition and have and test them in time.

Another issue that could have been a problem is the bottle grabbing area in front of the robot: when the bottle was inside and the robot was pushing it tended to roll over the bottles, because of

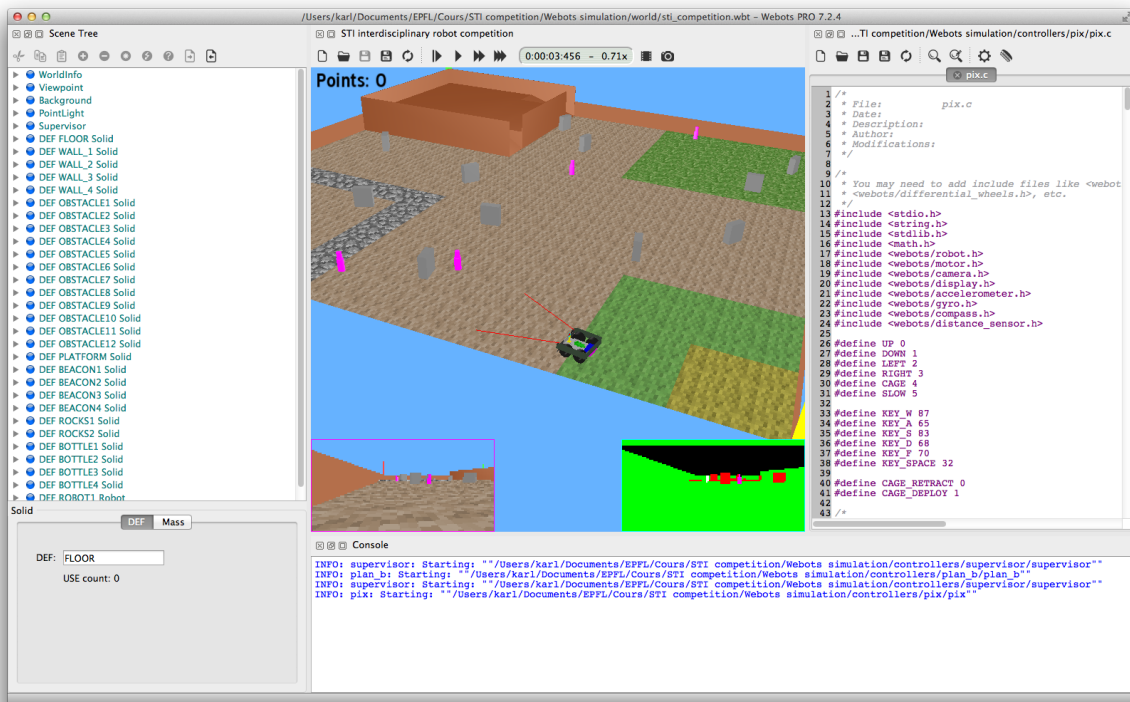


Figure 17: Webots simulation with the robot programmed to detect walls and bottles with a simplistic color based detection. On the bottom left is the camera output, on the bottom right is the processed image.



Figure 18: 180 degrees lens bought from eBay to augment the camera's field of vision

the WildThumper's big wheels, good adherence and powerful motors it simply might have rolled over the bottle it was delivering to the recycling area. Adding a simple plow in front of the robot immediately fixed that.

The Webots simulation was by no means perfect, since it ran on a much more powerful computer than what was going to be on the robot itself so image processing was much faster in simulation. Colors and lighting conditions were absolutely perfect, and something that was going to be a problem during the competition. Physics were not always true to what was going to be on the arena, tuning all the parameters to get a near-perfect simulation would've taken too much time.

We do recommend making a simulation at the beginning for the next year competitors, an easily

simulated robot can be actually made just as easily and much of the implementation problems can be seen in advance. Webots is quite well documented [5] and only takes a couple of hours to master.

7 RESULTS

The robot performed really well during the competition, and it won with 45 points bringing back 4 bottles from the main area to the 100% zone and leaving one in the 50% zone. At first it had a problem when closing the cage as the bottles were not perfectly aligned. It also lost a bottle while trying to bring it back to the recycling zone, because the robot tried passing through the rocks.

As expected it detected some false positives, but our countermeasures worked really well and it by double checking it never brought back a "virtual fake" bottle.

Some areas were really difficult to predict, especially the rocks and the area near the ramp. Near rocks the camera picked up a lot of false positives (but didn't bring them back) and near the ramp it simply went crazy and couldn't get out of a loop, even with all our countermeasures. Fortunately during the competition it didn't go near the ramp.

On grass the IR sensors had tendency to pick up the grass as an obstacle sometimes, putting them higher up might solve this issue.

Our state machine code that made the robot play a sound every time it changed states, which made it really easy to know what the robot was doing during the competition, when it searched for bottles and found one we knew right away that it had found one and was in the next state of trying to grab it. This was also really useful when debugging.

We are quite satisfied with our controller, lots of code was written the day before competition in order to solve the particular issues the robot had, for example we noticed that when the robot detected a false positive bottle right in front of it for some reason it tried to bring it back, we assumed a bottle cannot appear in front of the robot magically and made it consider it a false positive in this particular case (bottle appearing right in the pick-up zone). When it had to move towards the bottle it had to detect the bottle multiple times which ensured that bottle was a genuine one. Another issue we solved at the last minute was that the robot could not turn on itself after grabbing a bottle and orienting itself towards the goal as sometimes an obstacle was right out of its field of vision, special cases on IR sensors when detecting obstacles were implemented to avoid damaging the robot.

Much more could be done if we had time, we could probably detect the rocks somehow in order to avoid that area, add more special cases to minimise the chance of coming back empty handed, such as a final check on the bottle when the cage was closed, but we thought with such short notice we could lose more bottles than win... it was a compromise between making the code even more complex and trusting the program we had already tested and approved.

We got enough time to test our robot on the real arena, but if we had more time on it we could have probably made an even better controller. Having the arena in advance and being able to test on it one week before in the real competition setting really helped us to understand where we had to put more effort in order for our robot to work.

8 CONCLUSION

This project was a very difficult one, we learned to apply the things we were taught in some courses and we had to design, develop, program and test a robot from scratch.

We wanted to make the most simple robot we could think of and reuse parts from the last years competition in order not to wait for parts deliveries. We ended up with a more complex robot than we needed, but we still succeeded in building it and making it work.

Out of the 2000CHF we were given, we used about 1000CHF, so we could've made a second robot, but already making one took so much time and energy and since one of the most important part on the robot was the software we decided to invest our time in the programming instead of building multiple robot.

We knew that during the last year competition some groups had problems with broken motors so we took special care when choosing ours, we always used them within specifications but we still managed to break all 4 motors that were supposedly impossible to break the way we used them. The lessons we learned from this is: do not buy cheap products if you want them to work, especially Pololu products, we have learned to never trust motors sold by this company or cheap electric motors altogether. Since it's a critical part of the robot it's important to invest what is needed and not take the cheap and unreliable stuff.

For the next year's competition we recommend doing a simulation (using Webots or another robot simulation software) when the main idea is found and while the parts arrive. This way it's possible to work on the software even before the robot is completed and it allows to see some potential problems the robot might have. We also recommend a modular design, we were able to change our strategy 2 days before the competition because we had such an easily modifiable platform.

We found out that we know a lot about the theory of building a robot, but in practice theory is not applicable. The most demanding part was, of course, the testing and finding out what could go wrong, this needed testing on the real arena and we had to fix problems fast as we only had a couple days to do it.

We had a great time building the robot and thanks to all the friendly "competition" we got to share our ideas, help out and learn from each other, see different approaches for the same problem and learn to work together.

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A GANTT DIAGRAM

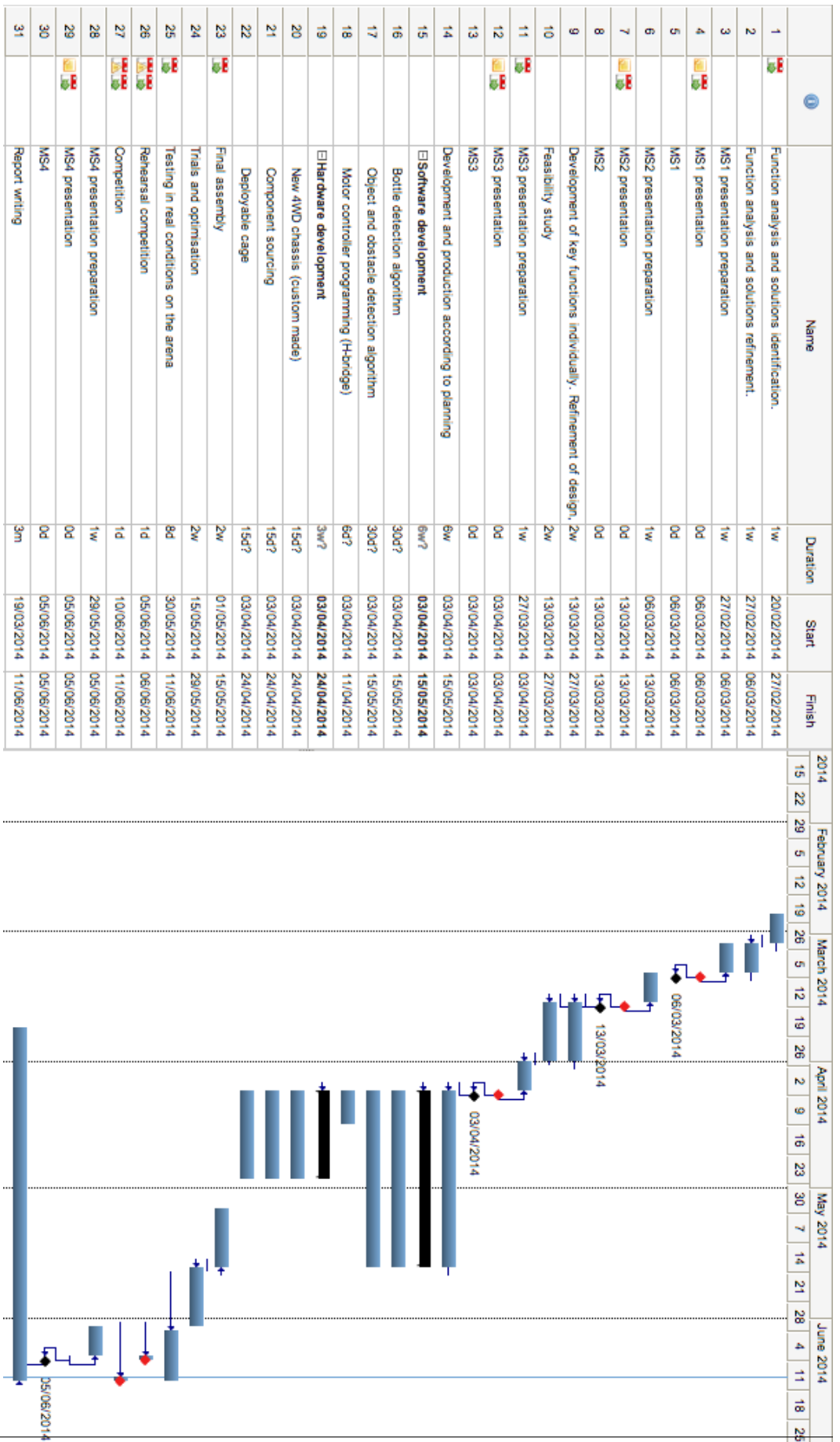
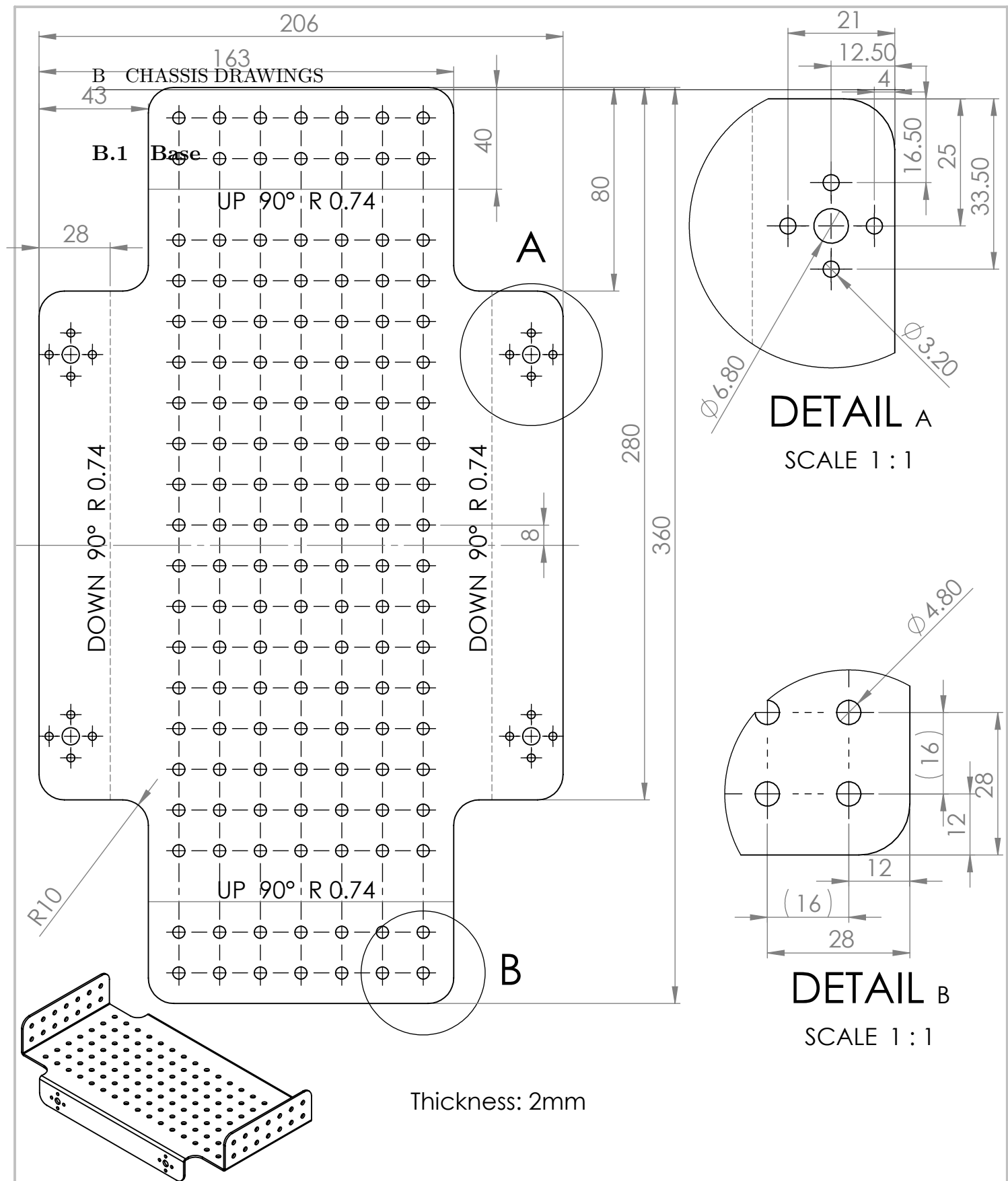


Figure 19: Gantt Diagram

B CHASSIS DRAWINGS



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REVISION

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Group 5

	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
DRAWN	Karl Kangur		2014-04-14
CHK'D			
APPV'D			
MFG			
Q.A			

MATERIAL:

Al, 2mm

TITLE:

Base

DWG NO.

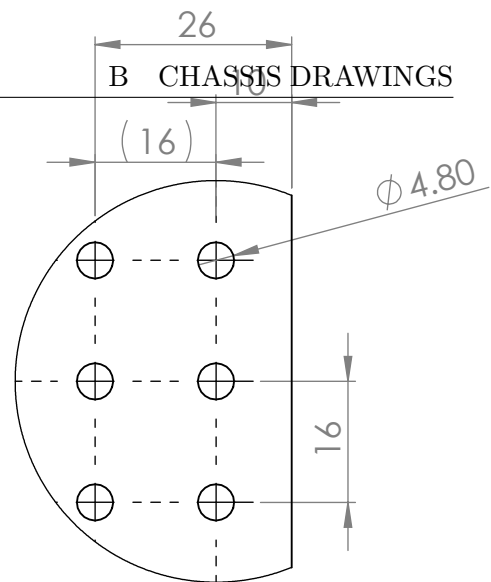
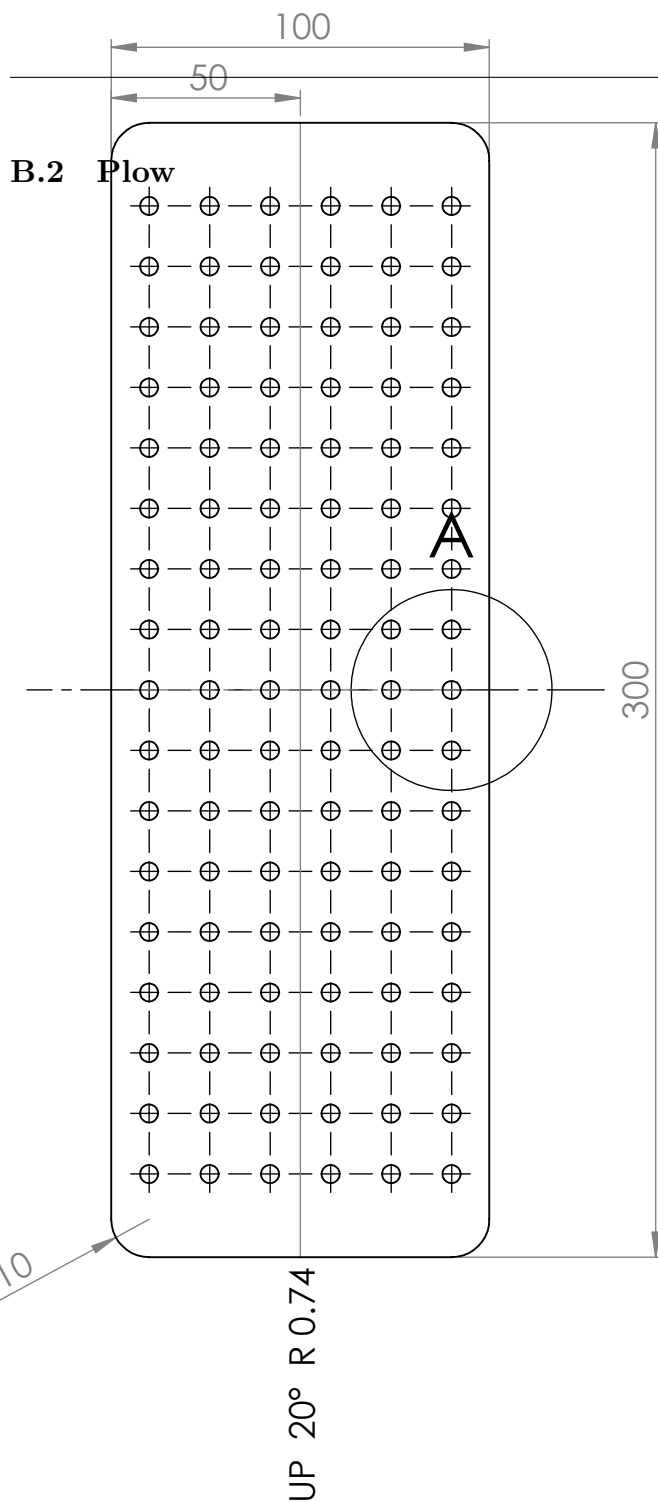
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K. Kangur, M. Starein, C. Xie

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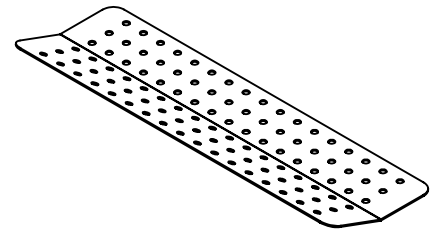
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SHEET 1 OF 1



DETAIL A

SCALE 1 : 1

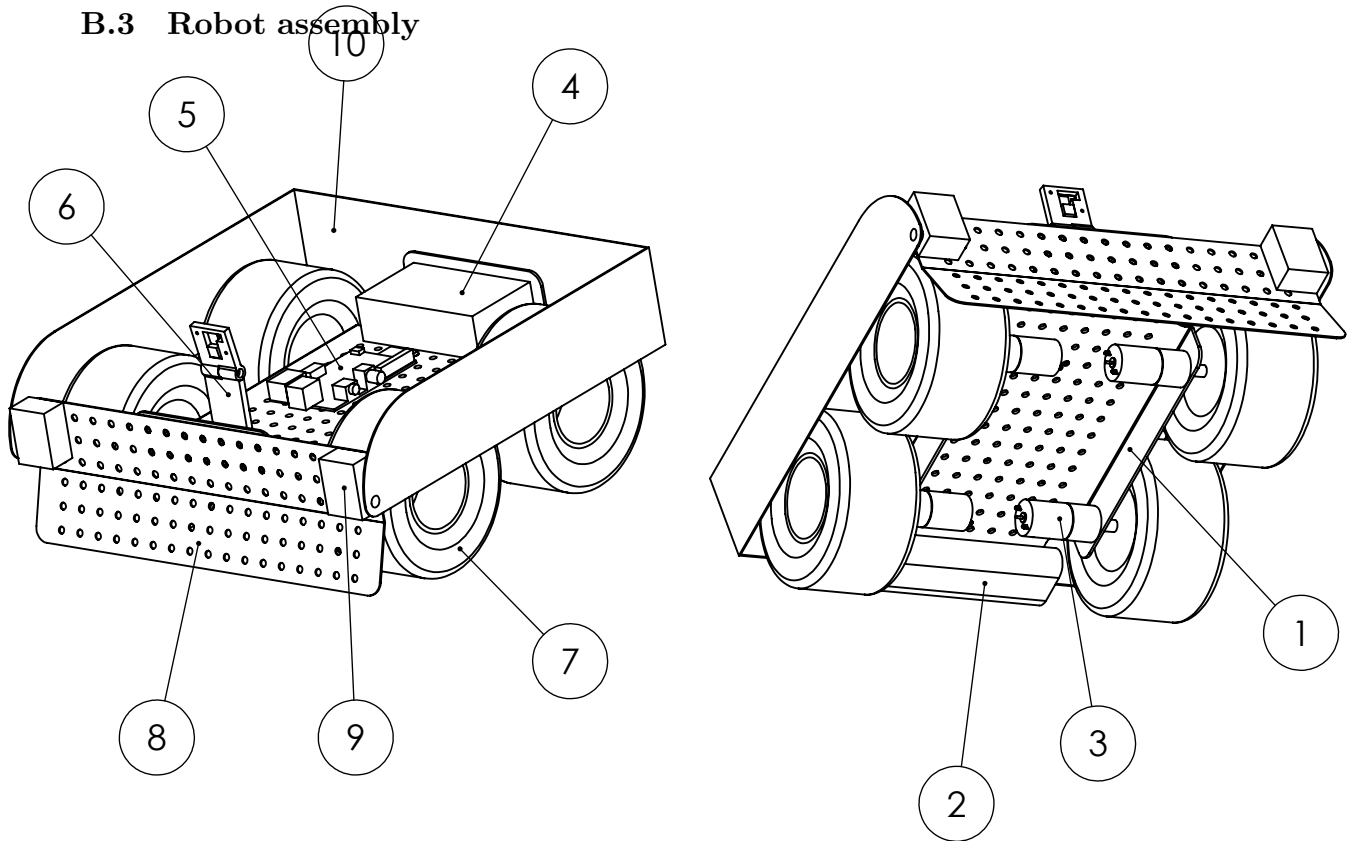


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DRAWN	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE						
CHK'D	Karl Kangur		2014-04-03						
APPV'D									
MFG									
Q.A									
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B.3 Robot assembly



ITEM NO.	PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	Défaut/Q TY.
1	base	Robot chassis	1
2	battery	Battery pack (7.2V, 3000mAh)	1
3	motor	WildThumper motor, 34:1	4
4	controller	WildThumper motor controller	1
5	raspberrypi	On-board computer	1
6	assembly	Raspberry Pi camera	1
7	wheel	WildThumper wheel	4
8	plow	Front plow	1
9	servomotor	Standard servomotor	2
10	cage	Deployable bottle cage	1

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REVISION

Group 5

	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
DRAWN	Karl Kangur		2014-04-04
CHK'D			
APPV'D			
MFG			
Q.A			

TITLE:

Fei

MATERIAL:

DWG NO.

44

K. Kangur, M. Starein, C. Xie

A4

WEIGHT:

SCALE:1:5

SHEET 1 OF 1

C SOURCE CODE

C.1 Controller source code in Python

```

1 #!/usr/bin/env python
2 import time
3 import sys
4 from cv2 import waitKey
5
6 import comm
7 import camera
8
9 # types of elements to detect
10
11 class RobotControl:
12     def __init__(self, port, baudrate):
13         # configuration for the serial connection to the robot
14         self.port = port
15         self.baudrate = baudrate
16
17     def connect(self):
18         # start serial communication thread
19         try:
20             print "Connecting to robot"
21             self.commThread = comm.CommThread(self.port, self.baudrate)
22             self.commThread.start()
23         except:
24             print "Could not connect to robot"
25             return
26
27         preview = False
28         # run the code with or without the preview, by default it's disabled
29         if len(sys.argv) > 1:
30             if sys.argv[1]:
31                 preview = True
32
33         # start the camera thread
34         try:
35             print "Starting camera"
36             self.cameraThread = camera.ImageProcessing(256, 128, preview)
37             self.cameraThread.start()
38         except:
39             print "Could not start camera"
40             return
41
42         # start the control loop
43         self.control()
44
45     def control(self):
46         # wait for the camera and communication threads to start
47         while not self.commThread.isAlive() and not self.cameraThread.isAlive():
48             time.sleep(0.1)
49             pass
50
51         print "Starting robot control loop"
52
53         # play 880hz sound to indicate script start when working without a screen
54         print "Beep"
55         self.commThread.write('t' + chr(880 >> 8) + chr(880 & 0xff))
56
57         # turn on the led lights on the robot
58         print "Turning light on"

```

```
59     self.commThread.write('l' + chr(1))
60
61     print "Enable bottle detection"
62     self.commThread.write('0')
63
64     while True:
65         try:
66             self.stateSearching()
67
68             # check for keyboard input
69             if self.checkInput():
70                 break
71
72             time.sleep(0.1)
73         except (KeyboardInterrupt, SystemExit):
74             print "User forced exit"
75             break
76         except Exception as e:
77             # when an error occurs make sure to end the dependant threads
78             print e
79             self.stopThreads()
80             break
81
82     # turn off the led lights on the robot
83     print "Turning light off"
84     self.commThread.write('l' + chr(0))
85
86     print "Disable bottle detection"
87     self.commThread.write('0')
88
89     print "Control loop exited"
90     self.stopThreads()
91
92     def stopThreads(self):
93         print "Stopping threads"
94         self.commThread.stop()
95         self.commThread.join()
96         self.cameraThread.stop()
97         self.cameraThread.join()
98
99     def checkInput(self):
100         # check for user input
101         key = waitKey(10) & 0xff
102
103         if key == 27:
104             print "Manually stopped"
105             return True
106         elif key == ord('w'):
107             self.commThread.write('s' + chr(self.maxSpeed) + chr(self.maxSpeed))
108         elif key == ord('a'):
109             self.commThread.write('s' + chr(-self.maxSpeed + 255) + chr(self.maxSpeed))
110         elif key == ord('d'):
111             self.commThread.write('s' + chr(self.maxSpeed) + chr(-self.maxSpeed + 255))
112         elif key == ord('s'):
113             self.commThread.write('s' + chr(-self.maxSpeed + 255) + chr(-self.maxSpeed +
114                                     255))
115         elif key == ord('1'):
116             self.commThread.write('u')
117         elif key == ord('2'):
118             self.commThread.write('d')
119         elif key == ord('q') or key == 32:
120             self.commThread.write('s' + chr(0) + chr(0))
```

```

120     elif key != 255:
121         print key
122
123     return False
124
125 def stateSearching(self):
126     data = self.cameraThread.checkDataQueue()
127     if data:
128         self.commThread.write("!" + chr(data["position"][0]) + chr(data["position"][1]))
129         print "Bottle detected", data["position"]
130
131 robot = RobotControl("/dev/ttyACM0", 9600)
132 robot.connect()

```

Listing 1: Python main program

```

1  #!/usr/bin/env python
2  import sys
3  import serial
4  import threading
5  import time
6  import socket
7
8  class CommThread(threading.Thread):
9      def __init__(self, port, baudrate):
10         # script crashes without this
11         super(CommThread, self).__init__()
12         # save handle
13         self.comm = serial.Serial(port=port, baudrate=baudrate, timeout=1)
14         # an event that can be used for anything, here used to stop the thread
15         self.running = threading.Event()
16
17     def write(self, data):
18         # send data to the device
19         try:
20             return self.comm.write(data)
21         except:
22             return False
23
24     def setSpeed(self, speedLeft, speedRight):
25         # must be unsigned value
26         if speedLeft < 0:
27             speedLeft += 255
28
29         if speedRight < 0:
30             speedRight += 255
31
32         return self.write('s' + chr(speedLeft) + chr(speedRight))
33
34     def run(self):
35         print "Communication thread started"
36         # make sure we're still running
37         while not self.running.isSet():
38             # see if there is something in the incoming buffer
39             if self.comm.inWaiting():
40                 self.process(self.comm.readline())
41
42             # wait for a bit or it will consume all the CPU
43             time.sleep(0.2)
44
45     def process(self, data):
46         if data == 'p':

```

```
47         s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_DGRAM)
48         # create a socket to an external website
49         s.connect(('google.com', 0))
50         ip = s.getsockname()[0].split(".")
51         # transform list of strings to list of integers
52         ip = map(int, ip)
53         # send the external ip address via serial to the arduino board
54         self.write(chr(ip[0]) + chr(ip[1]) + chr(ip[2]) + chr(ip[3]))
55
56     def stop(self):
57         print "Stopping communication thread"
58         self.running.set()
```

Listing 2: Communication thread

```
1  #!/usr/bin/env python
2  import io
3  import picamera
4  import threading
5  import cv2
6  import numpy as np
7  import Queue
8
9  # types of elements to detect
10 OBSTACLE, BOTTLE = range(2)
11
12 class ImageProcessing(threading.Thread):
13     def __init__(self, width, height, preview):
14         super(ImageProcessing, self).__init__()
15
16         self.obstacleThreshold = 100000
17
18         self.preview = preview
19
20         self.width = width
21         self.height = height
22
23         self.camera = picamera.PiCamera()
24
25         self.camera.resolution = (self.width, self.height)
26
27         # boost colors
28         self.camera.saturation = 100
29
30         #self.camera.shutter_speed = 10000
31         #self.camera.awb_mode = u'off'
32         #self.camera.exposure_mode = u'fixedfps'
33         #self.camera.meter_mode = u'spot'
34         #self.camera.exposure_compensation = 10
35         #self.camera.framerate = 2
36         #self.camera.sharpness = 0
37         #self.camera.video_stabilization = True
38
39         #self.configureCamera()
40
41         # load the xml file for
42         self.cascadeXml = cv2.CascadeClassifier('bottle.xml')
43
44         # load the mask that hides the non important parts of the image
45         self.mask = cv2.imread("mask.png", 0)
46
47         self.stream = io.BytesIO()
48         self.dataQueue = Queue.Queue()
```

```

49
50 # if enabled show the preview window
51 if self.preview:
52     cv2.namedWindow("Preview", flags=cv2.cv.CV_WINDOW_AUTOSIZE)
53
54 # event to stop the thread
55 self.running = threading.Event()
56
57 def run(self):
58     print "Image processing thread started"
59     # make sure we're still running
60     while not self.running.isSet():
61         # take the picture
62         self.camera.capture(self.stream, format='jpeg', use_video_port=True)
63
64         # construct a numpy array from the stream
65         data = np.fromstring(self.stream.getvalue(), dtype=np.uint8)
66
67         self.stream.truncate()
68         self.stream.seek(0)
69
70         # "decode" the image from the array, preserving colour in BGR format
71         self.img = cv2.imdecode(data, cv2.CV_LOAD_IMAGE_COLOR)
72
73         # image that can be modified by the image processing for preview purposes
74         if self.preview:
75             self.previewImage = self.img
76
77         #self.detectObstacles()
78         self.detectBottles()
79
80         if self.preview:
81             try:
82                 cv2.imshow("Preview", self.previewImage)
83             except:
84                 pass
85
86         # destroy the preview window
87         if self.preview:
88             cv2.destroyAllWindows()
89
90 def stop(self):
91     print "Stopping image processing thread"
92     self.running.set()
93
94 def detectBottles(self):
95     # get a gray picture
96     gry = cv2.cvtColor(self.img, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
97
98     # run the haar cascade algorithm (slow)
99     haar = self.cascadeXml.detectMultiScale(gry, 1.1, 6)
100
101     # update preview
102     if self.preview:
103         for (x,y,w,h) in haar:
104             cv2.rectangle(self.previewImage, (x,y), (x+w, y+h), (255, 255, 255), 1)
105
106     # normalised value between 0 and 1 of the first bottle position
107     if len(haar):
108         bottleX = (haar[0][0] + haar[0][2] / 2);
109         bottleY = self.height - (haar[0][1] + haar[0][3] / 2) ;
110         self.dataQueue.put({"type": BOTTLE, "position": (bottleX, bottleY)})

```

```

111
112 def detectObstacles(self):
113     colorFloorL = np.array([8, 30, 30], np.uint8)
114     colorFloorH = np.array([28, 255, 255], np.uint8)
115
116     # convert to hue, saturation, value format
117     hsv = cv2.cvtColor(self.img, cv2.COLOR_BGR2HSV)
118
119     colorThreshold = cv2.inRange(hsv, colorFloorL, colorFloorH)
120     colorThreshold = np.invert(colorThreshold)
121
122     cv2.erode(colorThreshold, cv2.getStructuringElement(cv2.MORPH_ELLIPSE, (7, 7)),
123               colorThreshold, (-1, -1), 1)
124     np.bitwise_and(colorThreshold, self.mask, colorThreshold)
125
126     # average values vertically and split screen in 4 horizontally
127     sumVertical = np.sum(colorThreshold, axis = 0)
128     splitHorizontal = np.array([np.sum(sumVertical[0:63]), np.sum(sumVertical
129                               [64:127]), np.sum(sumVertical[128:191]), np.sum(sumVertical[192:255])])
130     # print "H", splitHorizontal
131
132     if self.preview:
133         # show obstacle position with the overlay on the image
134         mask = np.invert(colorThreshold)
135         np.bitwise_and(self.previewImage[:, :, 0], mask, self.previewImage[:, :, 0])
136         np.bitwise_and(self.previewImage[:, :, 1], mask, self.previewImage[:, :, 1])
137         np.bitwise_and(self.previewImage[:, :, 2], mask, self.previewImage[:, :, 2])
138         pass
139
140     peakX = splitHorizontal.argmax()
141
142     # obstacle threshold has been reached, obstacle has been detected
143     if splitHorizontal[peakX] > self.obstacleThreshold:
144
145         # average values horizontally and split screen in 4 vertically
146         sumHorizontal = np.sum(colorThreshold, axis = 1)
147         splitVertical = np.array([np.sum(sumHorizontal[0:31]), np.sum(sumHorizontal
148                               [32:63]), np.sum(sumHorizontal[64:95]), np.sum(sumHorizontal[96:127])])
149         #print "V", splitVertical
150
151         peakY = splitVertical.argmax()
152
153         self.dataQueue.put({"type": OBSTACLE, "position": (peakX, peakY)})
154
155 def checkDataQueue(self):
156     if not self.dataQueue.empty():
157         return self.dataQueue.get()
158     else:
159         return False

```

Listing 3: Image processing thread

C.2 PRismino source code

```

1 /*
2  *
3  * Title:      STI competition Arduino code for the Tokamak robot.
4  * Date:      2014-06-06
5  *

```



```

6  ****
7  */
8  #include <Servo.h>
9  #include <prismino.h>
10 #include <Wire.h>
11 #include "robot.h"
12 Tokamak robot;
13
14 // transition structure
15 struct transition
16 {
17     enum state_codes state_source;
18     enum return_codes return_code;
19     enum state_codes state_destination;
20 };
21
22 // state functions and codes must be in sync
23 return_codes (*state[])(void) = {
24     stateSearching,
25     stateFetchingBottle,
26     stateLowerCage,
27     stateGoHome,
28     stateRaiseCage
29 };
30
31 struct transition state_transitions[] = {
32     {STATE_SEARCHING, OK, STATE_FETCHING_BOTTLE},
33     {STATE_SEARCHING, REPEAT, STATE_SEARCHING},
34     {STATE_FETCHING_BOTTLE, OK, STATE_LOWER_CAGE},
35     {STATE_FETCHING_BOTTLE, REPEAT, STATE_FETCHING_BOTTLE},
36     {STATE_FETCHING_BOTTLE, FAIL, STATE_SEARCHING},
37     {STATE_LOWER_CAGE, OK, STATE_GO_HOME},
38     {STATE_GO_HOME, REPEAT, STATE_GO_HOME},
39     {STATE_GO_HOME, OK, STATE_RAISE_CAGE},
40     {STATE_RAISE_CAGE, OK, STATE_SEARCHING}
41 };
42
43 enum state_codes currentState;
44 enum return_codes returnCode;
45 comm_methods inputMethod;
46
47 // pointer to the current called function in the state machine
48 return_codes (*stateFunction)(void);
49
50 // other global variables
51 volatile uint8_t bottlePosition;
52 volatile uint8_t bottleDistance;
53 sides sideWall;
54
55 volatile uint32_t timeBottleLastSeen;
56 volatile uint32_t timeNextBottleCheck;
57 uint32_t timeCheckBattery;
58 volatile boolean booleanBottleUpdate;
59 boolean booleanBottleSecondTry;
60 boolean booleanFalseBottle;
61
62 // ##### SETUP
63
64 void setup()
65 {
66     // set pin output mode (sources current)

```

```
67  pinMode(LED, OUTPUT);
68  pinMode(PIN_LIGHTS, OUTPUT);
69
70  // enable button pull-up
71  pinMode(BTN, INPUT);
72  digitalWrite(BTN, HIGH);
73
74  // play a sound on boot, repeated sounds will indicate very low battery voltage
75  robot.playSound(ONEUP);
76
77  // initialise serial bus for communication with the Raspberry Pi
78  Serial.begin(9600);
79
80  // initialise the bus for communication with the computer via Bluetooth
81  #ifdef ENABLE_BLUETOOTH
82  Bluetooth.begin(9600);
83  #endif
84
85  // join i2c bus as master
86  Wire.begin();
87  // disable internal pull-ups to 5V as there are external 2K pull-ups to 3.3V
88  digitalWrite(SDA, LOW);
89  digitalWrite(SCL, LOW);
90
91  #ifdef ENABLE_COMPASS
92  // wait for the imu to boot
93  delay(500);
94  // put the HMC5883 IC into the correct operating mode
95  // open communication with HMC5883
96  Wire.beginTransmission(I2C_COMPASS_ADDRESS);
97  // select mode register
98  Wire.write(0x02);
99  // continuous measurement mode
100 Wire.write(0x00);
101 Wire.endTransmission();
102 #endif
103
104 // initialise global variables
105 bottlePosition = 0;
106 bottleDistance = 0;
107
108 timeCheckBattery = millis() + TIME_CHECK_BATTERY;
109 timeBottleLastSeen = 0;
110
111 sideWall = RIGHT;
112 booleanBottleUpdate = 0;
113
114 // reset the robot state
115 reset();
116
117 currentState = ENTRY_STATE;
118 }
119
120 // ##### MAIN LOOP
121
122 void loop()
123 {
124   if(Serial.available())
125   {
126     processInput(USB);
127   }
128 }
```

```

129 #ifdef ENABLE_BLUETOOTH
130 if(Bluetooth.available())
131 {
132     processInput(BLUETOOTH);
133 }
134 #endif
135
136 uint16_t irLeft, irCenterLeft, irCenterRight, irRight;
137 robot.readIrSensors(&irLeft, &irCenterLeft, &irCenterRight, &irRight);
138
139 Bluetooth.print(irLeft);
140 Bluetooth.print("\t");
141 Bluetooth.print(irCenterLeft);
142 Bluetooth.print("\t");
143 Bluetooth.print(irCenterRight);
144 Bluetooth.print("\t");
145 Bluetooth.println(irRight);
146
147 //Bluetooth.println(robot.getHeading());
148
149 // toggle robot running state via the button on the shield
150 if(!digitalRead(BTN))
151 {
152     robot.playSound(POWERUP);
153     robot.flags.running = !robot.flags.running;
154
155     // robot has been stopped
156     if(!robot.flags.running)
157     {
158         robot.stop();
159         // reset robot state to ENTRY_STATE
160         currentState = ENTRY_STATE;
161     }
162
163     // wait for button debounce
164     delay(1000);
165 }
166
167 #ifdef ENABLE_CONTROLLER
168 // check battery level and make a beep if it's too low
169 if(millis() > timeCheckBattery)
170 {
171     robot.checkBattery();
172 }
173 #endif
174
175 if(robot.flags.running)
176 {
177     // current function to call according to the state machine
178     stateFunction = state[currentState];
179     // actually call the function
180     returnCode = stateFunction();
181     // fetch next state
182     currentState = lookupTransitions(currentState, returnCode);
183 }
184 }
185
186 // ##### STATE TRANSITIONS
187
188 // returns the new state according to the current state and the return value
189 state_codes lookupTransitions(state_codes state, return_codes code)
190 {

```

```
191     uint8_t i;
192     // default return state is the entry state
193     state_codes nextState = ENTRY_STATE;
194     // see if a state transition matches and switch to the next state
195     for(i = 0; i < sizeof(state_transitions) / sizeof(transition); i++)
196     {
197         if(state_transitions[i].state_source == state && state_transitions[i].
            return_code == code)
198         {
199             nextState = state_transitions[i].state_destination;
200             if(nextState != state_transitions[i].state_source)
201             {
202                 robot.playSound(COIN);
203             }
204             break;
205         }
206     }
207     return nextState;
208 }
209
210 // ##### ROBOT STATES
211
212 return_codes stateSearching()
213 {
214     // check if a bottle has been seen and change state
215     if(bottlePosition && millis() > timeNextBottleCheck)
216     {
217         robot.stop();
218         booleanBottleSecondTry = 0;
219         booleanFalseBottle = 1;
220         return OK;
221     }
222
223     // make robot roam the arena set deviation to 0 to go straight when there are no
        obstacles
224     robot.headTo(0);
225
226     return REPEAT;
227 }
228
229 return_codes stateFetchingBottle()
230 {
231     // check that the last time a bottle has been seen doesn't exceed a limit
232     if(millis() > timeBottleLastSeen)
233     {
234         timeNextBottleCheck = millis() + TIME_NEXT_BOTTLE_CHECK;
235
236         // a bottle hasn't been seed since TIME_BOTTLE_SEEN_TIMEOUT milliseconds, it was
            probably a false positive
237         if(booleanBottleSecondTry)
238         {
239             bottlePosition = 0;
240             return FAIL;
241         }
242
243         // back up a little bit just to be sure it was a false positive
244         booleanBottleSecondTry = 1;
245
246         robot.setSpeed(-CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE, -CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE);
247         delay(500);
248         robot.stop();
249         delay(1000);
```

```

250 }
251
252 // make the 0-255 bottle position value signed
253 int8_t deviation = 127 - bottlePosition;
254 static uint32_t timeBottleApproachingLastCheck = 0;
255
256 if(deviation > -CONST_DEVIATION_OK && deviation < CONST_DEVIATION_OK)
257 {
258     // if the bottle is close enough or it was lost while approaching from it (the
259     // bottle is right next to the robot), lower the cage
260     if(bottleDistance > CONST_BOTTLE_SIZE_LOWER_CAGE || millis() >
261        timeBottleApproachingLastCheck)
262     {
263         // if the bottle magically appeared in front of the robot consider it a false
264         // positive
265         if(booleanFalseBottle)
266         {
267             bottlePosition = 0;
268             return FAIL;
269         }
270
271         // just to be sure move forwards for a little while
272         robot.setSpeed(CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE, CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE);
273         delay(500);
274         robot.stop();
275
276         return OK;
277     }
278
279     // approach the bottle only if the robot got an update on the bottle position
280     if(booleanBottleUpdate)
281     {
282         robot.setSpeed(CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE, CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE);
283         booleanBottleUpdate = 0;
284         timeBottleApproachingLastCheck = millis() + TIME_GRAB_LOST_BOTTLE;
285     }
286 }
287
288 // head towards the bottle at a lower speed
289 if(booleanBottleUpdate)
290 {
291     robot.turn(deviation, CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE);
292     delay(CONST_SPEED_SET_DELAY);
293     robot.stop();
294     booleanBottleUpdate = 0;
295     timeBottleApproachingLastCheck = millis() + TIME_GRAB_LOST_BOTTLE;
296 }
297
298 // the bottle was not perfectly detected in front of the robot the first time, so
299 // it's probably a true bottle
300 booleanFalseBottle = 0;
301
302 return REPEAT;
303 }
304
305 return_codes stateLowerCage()
306 {
307     // make sure the wheels are stopped
308     robot.stop();
309     robot.setCagePosition(CAGE_DOWN);
310     robot.playSound(ONEUP);
311     return OK;

```

```
308 }
309
310 /*return_codes stateFindWall()
311 {
312     uint16_t irLeft, irCenterLeft, irCenterRight, irRight;
313     robot.readIrSensors(&irLeft, &irCenterLeft, &irCenterRight, &irRight);
314
315     // get the heading angle between -180 and 180 degrees
316     int16_t deviation = robot.getHeading() - CONST_HEADING_HOME;
317
318     // must check of it will enter an infinite loop
319     static uint32_t timeAntiRecheck = 0;
320     static uint32_t timeTurnTime;
321
322     if(
323         millis() > timeAntiRecheck &&
324         (irLeft > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE || irRight > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE)
325     )
326     {
327         // if the robot is too close to a wall it's impossible for it to be a wall
328         if(irLeft > CONST_IR_TOO_CLOSE || irRight > CONST_IR_TOO_CLOSE)
329         {
330             timeAntiRecheck = millis() + TIME_WALL_RECHECK;
331             return REPEAT;
332         }
333
334         // see if this is an obstacle or a wall
335         // the obstacle was on the left, turn left and check if the robot can see it
336         // with its right side sensor, if at this point the left is still detecting the
337         // obstacle it's a wall
338         if(irLeft > irRight)
339         {
340             // the "obstacle" was on the left, turn towards the left to check for a wall
341             sideWall = LEFT;
342             timeTurnTime = millis();
343             robot.setSpeed(-CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE, CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE);
344
345             // wait until the right sensor sees the obstacle
346             while(analogRead(SENSOR_IR_RIGHT) < CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE);
347
348             // stop before checking the other IR sensor
349             timeTurnTime = millis() - timeTurnTime;
350             robot.setSpeed(0, 0);
351
352             // check if the left sensor still sees the obstacle, if yes it's a wall
353             if(analogRead(SENSOR_IR_LEFT) > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_FAR)
354             {
355                 return OK;
356             }
357         }
358         // the obstacle was on the right, turn right and check if the robot can see it
359         // with its left side sensor, if at this point the right is still detecting the
360         // obstacle it's a wall
361         else
362         {
363             // the "obstacle" was on the right, turn towards the right to check for a wall
364             sideWall = RIGHT;
365             timeTurnTime = millis();
366             robot.setSpeed(CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE, -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE);
367
368             // wait until the right sensor sees the obstacle
369             while(analogRead(SENSOR_IR_LEFT) < CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE);
```



```

366
367     // stop before checking the other IR sensor
368     timeTurnTime = millis() - timeTurnTime;
369     robot.setSpeed(0, 0);
370
371     // check if the left sensor still sees the obstacle, if yes it's a wall
372     if(analogRead(SENSOR_IR_RIGHT) > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_FAR)
373     {
374         return OK;
375     }
376 }
377
378 // false positive, turn back
379 if(sideWall == LEFT)
380 {
381     robot.setSpeed(CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE, -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE);
382 }
383 else
384 {
385     robot.setSpeed(-CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE, CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE);
386 }
387 delay(timeTurnTime);
388
389 timeAntiRecheck = millis() + TIME_WALL_RECHECK;
390 }
391
392 // head towards the direction the compass indicates
393 robot.headTo(deviation);
394
395 return REPEAT;
396 }*/
397
398 return_codes stateGoHome()
399 {
400     return robot.goHome();
401
402     /*uint16_t irLeft, irCenterLeft, irCenterRight, irRight;
403     robot.readIrSensors(&irLeft, &irCenterLeft, &irCenterRight, &irRight);
404
405     int16_t deviation = robot.getHeading() - CONST_HEADING_HOME;
406
407     // at this point we know the robot is in front of the wall
408
409     // turn towards the home heading within a margin
410     Serial.println(deviation);
411
412     if(deviation > CONST_DEVIATION_OK)
413     {
414         robot.setSpeed(-CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE, CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE);
415     }
416     else if(deviation < -CONST_DEVIATION_OK)
417     {
418         robot.setSpeed(CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE, -CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE);
419     }
420     else if(irLeft > irRight)
421     {
422         // wall is on the left, turn left a little bit for the next state
423         robot.setSpeed(CONST_SPEED_MAX, 0);
424         delay(TIME_TURN_FOLLOW_WALL);
425         robot.setSpeed(0, 0);
426         sideWall = LEFT;
427         return OK;

```

```
428 }
429 else if(irRight > irLeft)
430 {
431     // wall is on the right, turn left a little bit for the next state
432     robot.setSpeed(0, CONST_SPEED_MAX);
433     delay(TIME_TURN_FOLLOW_WALL);
434     robot.setSpeed(0, 0);
435     sideWall = RIGHT;
436     return OK;
437 }
438 else
439 {
440     robot.headTo(deviation);
441 }
442
443 return REPEAT;*/
444 }
445
446 return_codes stateFollowWall()
447 {
448     uint16_t irLeft, irCenterLeft, irCenterRight, irRight;
449     robot.readIrSensors(&irLeft, &irCenterLeft, &irCenterRight, &irRight);
450
451     // follow the left wall
452     if(sideWall == LEFT)
453     {
454         // a wall was detected on the right, it can only be the goal
455         if(irRight > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE)
456         {
457             robot.stop();
458             return OK;
459         }
460
461         // go straight with an offset to the left
462         //robot.headTo(CONST_SPEED_MAX - 1);
463         robot.followWall(&irLeft, LEFT);
464     }
465     else
466     {
467         // a wall was detected on the left, it can only be the goal
468         if(irLeft > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE)
469         {
470             robot.stop();
471             return OK;
472         }
473
474         // go straight with an offset to the right
475         //robot.headTo(-(CONST_SPEED_MAX - 1));
476         robot.followWall(&irRight, RIGHT);
477     }
478
479     return REPEAT;
480 }
481
482 return_codes stateRaiseCage()
483 {
484     robot.setCagePosition(CAGE_UP);
485
486     // announce the glorious point it just probably got
487     //robot.playSound(FLAGPOLE);
488
489     if(robot.flags.wall == WALL_RIGHT)
```

```

490 {
491     robot.setSpeed(-CONST_SPEED_MAX, -(CONST_SPEED_MAX-10));
492 }
493 else
494 {
495     robot.setSpeed(-(CONST_SPEED_MAX-10), -CONST_SPEED_MAX);
496 }
497 delay(1000);
498
499 while(robot.getHeading() < 160 && robot.getHeading() > -160)
500 {
501     if(robot.flags.wall == WALL_LEFT)
502     {
503         robot.setSpeed(CONST_SPEED_MAX, -CONST_SPEED_MAX);
504     }
505     else
506     {
507         robot.setSpeed(-CONST_SPEED_MAX, CONST_SPEED_MAX);
508     }
509 }
510
511 robot.stop();
512
513 // reset the robot state before restarting
514 reset();
515
516 return OK;
517 }
518
519 void reset()
520 {
521     robot.flags.wall = NO_WALL;
522     bottlePosition = 0;
523     timeNextBottleCheck = millis() + TIME_NEXT_BOTTLE_CHECK;
524     booleanBottleSecondTry = 0;
525 }
526
527 // ##### USER INPUT METHODS
528
529 void processInput(comm_methods method)
530 {
531     inputMethod = method;
532     digitalWrite(LED, HIGH);
533     switch(input())
534     {
535     case '0':
536         // force robot state to searching
537         output("Toggle robot\n");
538         bottlePosition = 0;
539         robot.flags.running = !robot.flags.running;
540
541         if(!robot.flags.running)
542         {
543             robot.stop();
544         }
545         robot.playSound(POWERUP);
546         break;
547     case '1':
548         output("Set state: searching\n");
549         currentState = STATE_SEARCHING;
550         break;
551     case '2':

```

```
552     output("Set state: fetching bottle\n");
553     currentState = STATE_FETCHING_BOTTLE;
554     break;
555 case '3':
556     output("Set state: go home\n");
557     currentState = STATE_LOWER_CAGE;
558     break;
559 case '4':
560     output("Set state: follow wall\n");
561     currentState = STATE_GO_HOME;
562     break;
563 case '5':
564     output("Set state: raise cage\n");
565     currentState = STATE_RAISE_CAGE;
566     break;
567 case 'B':
568     // a bottle was seen
569     bottlePosition = input();
570     bottleDistance = input();
571     timeBottleLastSeen = millis() + TIME_BOTTLE_SEEN_TIMEOUT;
572     booleanBottleUpdate = 1;
573     break;
574 case 'S':
575     robot.setSpeed(input(), input());
576     break;
577 case 't' :
578     play((input() << 8) | input(), 500);
579     break;
580 case '.' :
581     output("Lower cage\n");
582     robot.setCagePosition(CAGE_DOWN);
583     break;
584 case ',' :
585     output("Raise cage\n");
586     robot.setCagePosition(CAGE_UP);
587     break;
588 case 'm' :
589     output("Turn lights on\n");
590     robot.setLights(true);
591     break;
592 case 'n' :
593     output("Turn lights off\n");
594     robot.setLights(false);
595     break;
596 case 'w':
597     output("Go forwards\n");
598     robot.setSpeed(CONST_SPEED_MAX, CONST_SPEED_MAX);
599     break;
600 case 'a':
601     output("Go left\n");
602     robot.setSpeed(-CONST_SPEED_MAX, CONST_SPEED_MAX);
603     break;
604 case 's':
605     output("Go backwards\n");
606     robot.setSpeed(-CONST_SPEED_MAX, -CONST_SPEED_MAX);
607     break;
608 case 'd':
609     output("Go right\n");
610     robot.setSpeed(CONST_SPEED_MAX, -CONST_SPEED_MAX);
611     break;
612 case 'q':
613     output("Stop\n");
```

```

614     robot.stop();
615     break;
616 default:
617     output("Command not recognised\n");
618 }
619 digitalWrite(LED, LOW);
620 }
621
622 char input()
623 {
624     if(inputMethod == USB)
625     {
626         return Serial.read();
627     }
628     else if(inputMethod == BLUETOOTH)
629     {
630         return Bluetooth.read();
631     }
632 }
633
634 char output(const char* data)
635 {
636     if(inputMethod == USB)
637     {
638         Serial.print(data);
639     }
640     else if(inputMethod == BLUETOOTH)
641     {
642         Bluetooth.print(data);
643     }
644 }

```

Listing 4: Arduino main program

```

1  /*
   * *****
2  *
3  * Title:      STI competition Arduino code for the Tokamak robot
4  * Date:      2014-06-06
5  *
6  * *****
   */
7  #include <Servo.h>
8  #include <Wire.h>
9  #include <prismino.h>
10 #include "robot.h"
11 #include "pitch.h"
12 #include "sound.h"
13
14 Tokamak::Tokamak()
15 {
16     // initialise default values
17     this->flags.enableFrontLeds = false;
18     this->flags.running = false;
19     this->flags.cagePosition = CAGE_UP;
20 }
21
22 void Tokamak::setCagePosition(cage_positions position)
23 {
24     this->servoRight.attach(S1);
25     this->servoLeft.attach(S2);
26

```

```
27  uint8_t r, l;
28
29  if(position == CAGE_UP)
30  {
31      // both sevomotors have 160 steps between up and down positions, so this is
          allowed
32      for(l = SERVO_LEFT_DOWN, r = SERVO_RIGHT_DOWN; r < SERVO_RIGHT_UP; r++, l--)
33      {
34          this->servoLeft.write(l);
35          this->servoRight.write(r);
36
37          delay(CONST_MAX_SERVO_SPEED);
38      }
39  }
40  else if(position == CAGE_DOWN)
41  {
42      for(l = SERVO_LEFT_UP, r = SERVO_RIGHT_UP; r > SERVO_RIGHT_DOWN; r--, l++)
43      {
44          this->servoLeft.write(l);
45          this->servoRight.write(r);
46
47          delay(CONST_MAX_SERVO_SPEED);
48      }
49  }
50  }
51
52  // always detach the motors so that they are free-running and do not consume power
          in resting positions
53  this->servoLeft.detach();
54  this->servoRight.detach();
55
56  this->flags.cagePosition = position;
57  }
58
59  void Tokamak::setSpeed(int8_t speedLeft, int8_t speedRight)
60  {
61      // controller has been disabled
62      #ifndef ENABLE_CONTROLLER
63      return;
64      #endif
65
66      Wire.beginTransmission(I2C_MOTOR_CONTROLLER_ADDRESS);
67      Wire.write("s");
68
69      // make sure not to go over the maximum speed limit (100 or -100)
70      if(speedLeft > CONST_SPEED_MAX)
71      {
72          Wire.write(CONST_SPEED_MAX);
73      }
74      else if(speedLeft < -CONST_SPEED_MAX)
75      {
76          Wire.write(-CONST_SPEED_MAX);
77      }
78      else
79      {
80          Wire.write(speedLeft);
81      }
82
83      if(speedRight > CONST_SPEED_MAX)
84      {
85          Wire.write(CONST_SPEED_MAX);
86      }
```

```

87     else if(speedRight < -CONST_SPEED_MAX)
88     {
89         Wire.write(-CONST_SPEED_MAX);
90     }
91     else
92     {
93         Wire.write(speedRight);
94     }
95
96     Wire.endTransmission();
97
98     // a small delay is needed so that the speed could actually be applied to the
99     // wheels
100    delay(CONST_SPEED_SET_DELAY);
101}
102
103void Tokamak::stop()
104{
105    this->setSpeed(0, 0);
106}
107
108void Tokamak::checkBattery()
109{
110    Wire.beginTransmission(I2C_MOTOR_CONTROLLER_ADDRESS);
111
112    // casting needed for some reason
113    uint8_t available = Wire.requestFrom((uint8_t)I2C_MOTOR_CONTROLLER_ADDRESS, (
114        uint8_t)6);
115
116    // read 6 bytes, 2 by 2, high byte first: voltage, left motor current, right motor
117    // current
118    if(available == 6)
119    {
120        this->batteryVoltage = (Wire.read() << 8) | Wire.read();
121        this->currentLeft = (Wire.read() << 8) | Wire.read();
122        this->currentRight = (Wire.read() << 8) | Wire.read();
123    }
124    else
125    {
126        // inform i2c error
127        play(TONE_I2C_ERROR, 500);
128    }
129
130    Wire.endTransmission();
131
132    if(this->batteryVoltage < CONST_BATTERY_LOW)
133    {
134        play(TONE_BATTERY, 500);
135    }
136}
137
138void Tokamak::setLights(boolean state)
139{
140    digitalWrite(PIN_LIGHTS, state);
141}
142
143int16_t Tokamak::getHeading()
144{
145    #ifndef ENABLE_COMPASS
146    return 0;
147    #endif
148}

```

```
146     int16_t x = 0, y = 0, z = 0;
147
148     Wire.beginTransaction(I2C_COMPASS_ADDRESS);
149     // select register 3, X MSB register
150     Wire.write(0x03);
151     Wire.endTransmission();
152
153     Wire.requestFrom(I2C_COMPASS_ADDRESS, 6);
154     if(6 <= Wire.available())
155     {
156         x = (Wire.read() << 8) | Wire.read();
157         z = (Wire.read() << 8) | Wire.read();
158         y = (Wire.read() << 8) | Wire.read();
159     }
160     else
161     {
162         // inform i2c error
163         play(TONE_I2C_ERROR, 500);
164         return 0;
165     }
166
167     int16_t angle = atan2(x, z) * 180 / M_PI;
168     return angle;
169 }
170
171 void Tokamak::turn(int16_t deviation, int8_t speed)
172 {
173     int8_t speedLeft = 0;
174     int8_t speedRight = 0;
175
176     // limit deviation to maximum allowed speed
177     if(deviation > speed)
178     {
179         deviation = speed;
180     }
181     else if(deviation < -speed)
182     {
183         deviation = -speed;
184     }
185
186     if(deviation < -CONST_DEVIATION_OK)
187     {
188         speedLeft = speed;
189         speedRight = -speed;
190     }
191     else if(deviation > CONST_DEVIATION_OK)
192     {
193         speedLeft = -speed;
194         speedRight = speed;
195     }
196     else
197     {
198         speedLeft = 0;
199         speedRight = 0;
200     }
201
202     this->setSpeed(speedLeft, speedRight);
203 }
204
205 void Tokamak::headTo(int16_t deviation, int8_t speed)
206 {
207     navigation_avoidance(deviation);
```



```

208     return;
209
210     /*int8_t speedLeft = 0;
211     int8_t speedRight = 0;
212
213     uint16_t irLeft, irCenterLeft, irCenterRight, irRight;
214     this->readIrSensors(&irLeft, &irCenterLeft, &irCenterRight, &irRight);
215
216     // these values are incremented over time and reset after every TIME_ANTI_LOOP
        seconds
217     static uint8_t antiLoopCountLeft = 0, antiLoopCountRight = 0;
218     static uint32_t timeAntiLoop = 0;
219
220     // every TIME_ANTI_LOOP seconds reset the anti-loop timer and wheel counters
221     if(millis() > timeAntiLoop)
222     {
223         // every TIME_ANTI_LOOP seconds reset the anti-loop timer and wheel counters
224         antiLoopCountLeft = 0;
225         antiLoopCountRight = 0;
226         timeAntiLoop = millis() + TIME_ANTI_LOOP;
227     }
228
229     // limit deviation to maximum allowed speed
230     if(deviation > speed)
231     {
232         deviation = speed;
233     }
234     else if(deviation < -speed)
235     {
236         deviation = -speed;
237     }
238
239     // check if the robot has entered an infinite loop
240     if(antiLoopCountLeft > CONST_LOOP_TURN_TIMES && antiLoopCountRight >
        CONST_LOOP_TURN_TIMES)
241     {
242         // if the cage is deployed reverse a bit
243         if(this->flags.cagePosition == CAGE_UP)
244         {
245             this->setSpeed(-speed, -speed);
246             delay(500);
247         }
248
249         // set speed immediately
250         if(deviation > 0)
251         {
252             this->setSpeed(speed, -speed);
253         }
254         else
255         {
256             this->setSpeed(-speed, speed);
257         }
258
259         delay(TIME_ANTI_LOOP_TIMEOUT_TURN);
260
261         // reset the counters
262         antiLoopCountLeft = 0;
263         antiLoopCountRight = 0;
264     }
265     // avoid obstacles using the IR sensors
266     else if(irCenterRight > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_CENTER_CAGE)
267     {

```

```
268     // turn on itself
269     speedLeft = speed;
270     speedRight = -speed;
271     antiLoopCountLeft++;
272 }
273 else if(irCenterLeft > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_CENTER_CAGE)
274 {
275     speedLeft = -speed;
276     speedRight = speed;
277     antiLoopCountRight++;
278 }
279 else if(irRight > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE)
280 {
281     // block one wheel, reverse the other
282     speedLeft = -speed;
283     speedRight = 0;
284     antiLoopCountLeft++;
285 }
286 else if(irLeft > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE)
287 {
288     speedLeft = 0;
289     speedRight = -speed;
290     antiLoopCountRight++;
291 }
292 else if(deviation < -CONST_DEVIATION_OK)
293 {
294     speedLeft = speed;
295     speedRight = speed + deviation;
296 }
297 else if(deviation > CONST_DEVIATION_OK)
298 {
299     speedLeft = speed - deviation;
300     speedRight = speed;
301 }
302 else
303 {
304     // simply go forwards
305     speedLeft = speed;
306     speedRight = speed;
307 }
308
309 this->setSpeed(speedLeft, speedRight);*/
310 }
311
312 void Tokamak::followWall(uint16_t *sensorValue, sides side, int8_t speed)
313 {
314     if(side == RIGHT && *sensorValue < CONST_IR_WALL_FOLLOW_MIN)
315     {
316         this->setSpeed(speed, speed >> 2);
317     }
318     else if(side == RIGHT && *sensorValue > CONST_IR_WALL_FOLLOW_MAX)
319     {
320         this->setSpeed(speed >> 2, speed);
321     }
322     else if(side == LEFT && *sensorValue < CONST_IR_WALL_FOLLOW_MIN)
323     {
324         this->setSpeed(speed >> 2, speed);
325     }
326     else if(side == LEFT && *sensorValue > CONST_IR_WALL_FOLLOW_MAX)
327     {
328         this->setSpeed(speed, speed >> 2);
329     }
330 }
```

```

330 }
331
332 void Tokamak::readIrSensors(uint16_t *irLeft, uint16_t *irCenterLeft, uint16_t *
    irCenterRight, uint16_t *irRight)
333 {
334     *irLeft = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_LEFT);
335     *irCenterLeft = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_CENTER_LEFT);
336     *irCenterRight = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_CENTER_RIGHT);
337     *irRight = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_RIGHT);
338 }
339
340 // a sound is an array of notes
341 note notesCoin[] = {
342     {B5, 100},
343     {E6, 200}
344 };
345
346 sound soundCoin = {sizeof(notesCoin) / sizeof(note), notesCoin};
347
348 note notesPowerUp[] = {
349     {G3, 50},
350     {B4, 50},
351     {D4, 50},
352     {G4, 50},
353     {B5, 50},
354     {A4b, 50},
355     {C4, 50},
356     {E4b, 50},
357     {A5b, 50},
358     {C5, 50},
359     {B4b, 50},
360     {D4, 50},
361     {F4, 50},
362     {B5b, 50},
363     {D5, 50}
364 };
365
366 sound soundPowerUp = {sizeof(notesPowerUp) / sizeof(note), notesPowerUp};
367
368 note notesOneUp[] = {
369     {E4, 100},
370     {G4, 100},
371     {E5, 100},
372     {C5, 100},
373     {D5, 100},
374     {G5, 100}
375 };
376
377 sound soundOneUp = {sizeof(notesOneUp) / sizeof(note), notesOneUp};
378
379 note notesFlagpoleFanfare[] = {
380     {G2, 100},
381     {C3, 100},
382     {E3, 100},
383     {G3, 100},
384     {C4, 100},
385     {E4, 100},
386     {G4, 300},
387     {E4, 300},
388     {A2b, 100},
389     {C3, 100},
390     {E3b, 100},

```

```
391 {A3b, 100},
392 {C4, 100},
393 {E4b, 100},
394 {A4b, 300},
395 {E4b, 300},
396 {B2b, 100},
397 {D3, 100},
398 {F3, 100},
399 {B3b, 100},
400 {D4, 100},
401 {F4, 100},
402 {B4b, 300},
403 {B4b, 100},
404 {B4b, 100},
405 {B4b, 100},
406 {C5, 600},
407 };
408
409 sound soundFlagpoleFanfare = {sizeof(notesFlagpoleFanfare) / sizeof(note),
    notesFlagpoleFanfare};
410
411 // function that actually plays the sounds
412 void Tokamak::playSound(sound theSound)
413 {
414     #ifndef ENABLE_SOUND
415     return;
416     #endif
417
418     sound soundPtr;
419
420     // pointer to the sound object
421     switch(theSound)
422     {
423     case COIN:
424         soundPtr = soundCoin;
425         break;
426     case POWERUP:
427         soundPtr = soundPowerUp;
428         break;
429     case ONEUP:
430         soundPtr = soundOneUp;
431         break;
432     case FLAGPOLE:
433         soundPtr = soundFlagpoleFanfare;
434         break;
435     }
436
437     uint16_t frequency, duration;
438     uint8_t length = soundPtr.length;
439     for(uint8_t i = 0; i < length; i++)
440     {
441         // get data from program memory
442         frequency = soundPtr.notes[i].pitch;
443         duration = soundPtr.notes[i].duration;
444
445         // if the next note is the same then make a short pause
446         uint8_t pause = 0;
447         if(i < length - 1 && frequency == soundPtr.notes[i + 1].pitch)
448         {
449             // 5 millisecond pause
450             pause = 5;
451         }
```

```

452
453     // play the right pitch for the determined duration
454     play(frequency, duration - pause);
455
456     // play is not a blocking function so one has to manually set a delay
457     delay(duration);
458 }
459 }
460
461 void Tokamak::resetReturnBase(void)
462 {
463     this->flags.wall = NO_WALL;
464 }
465
466 return_codes Tokamak::goHome(int16_t direction_home)
467 {
468     //tell RASP to stop looking for bottles -> accelerates image processing
469     //tell RASP to start looking for beacon
470
471     //getHeading();
472     //gotoHeading(direction_home);
473     uint16_t irFarLeft = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_LEFT);
474     uint16_t irFarRight = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_RIGHT);
475
476     if(this->flags.wall == NO_WALL)
477     {
478         this->flags.wall = detectWall();
479         gotoHeading(direction_home);
480         if(this->flags.wall != NO_WALL)
481         {
482             //Serial.println("wall detected");
483             this->setSpeed(0,0);
484         }
485     }
486     else
487     {
488         if(this->flags.wall == WALL_LEFT)
489         {
490             // Serial.println("WALL LEFT");
491             if(irFarRight > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE)
492             {
493                 this->setSpeed(0,0);
494                 play(440, 500);
495                 return OK;
496             }
497             else navigation_avoidance(-6);
498         }
499         else if(this->flags.wall == WALL_RIGHT)
500         {
501             // Serial.println("WALL RIGHT");
502             if(irFarLeft > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE)
503             {
504                 this->setSpeed(0,0);
505                 play(440, 500);
506                 return OK;
507             }
508             else navigation_avoidance(6);
509         }
510     }
511     return REPEAT;
512     //if(beacon_detected) //stop, open cage, wallSide = 0;
513 }

```

```
514
515
516 uint8_t Tokamak::detectWall(void)
517 {
518     uint16_t irFarLeft = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_LEFT);
519     uint16_t irFarRight = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_RIGHT);
520     static uint32_t timeAntiRecheck;
521
522     if((irFarLeft < 100 && irFarRight < CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE) || (irFarLeft <
523         CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE && irFarRight < 100) )
524     {
525         return NO_WALL; // no wall detected
526         timeAntiRecheck = millis() + TIME_WALL_RECHECK;
527     }
528     else
529     {
530         if(millis() < timeAntiRecheck) return NO_WALL;
531         if (irFarLeft > irFarRight)
532         {
533             if(irFarLeft < 200)
534             {
535                 this->setSpeed(-100,+100);
536                 delay(TIME_WALL_CHECK_TURN);
537                 this->stop();
538                 irFarLeft = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_LEFT);
539                 irFarRight = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_RIGHT);
540                 delay(50); //wait for IR
541                 if (irFarLeft > 100 && irFarRight > 100)
542                 {
543                     this->setSpeed(+100,-100);
544                     delay(TIME_WALL_CHECK_TURN+500);
545                     //Serial.println("WALL LEFT");
546                     return WALL_LEFT; // wall detected on the left
547                 }
548                 else
549                 {
550                     this->setSpeed(+100,-100);
551                     delay(TIME_WALL_CHECK_TURN);
552                     timeAntiRecheck = millis() + TIME_WALL_RECHECK;
553                     return NO_WALL;
554                 }
555             }
556             else
557             {
558                 //incase the robot wants to turn on itself, but an obstacle is too near
559                 and would destroy the deployed cage
560                 this->setSpeed(-100,-100);
561                 delay(1000);
562             }
563         }
564         else
565         {
566             if(irFarRight < 200)
567             {
568                 this->setSpeed(+100,-100);
569                 delay(TIME_WALL_CHECK_TURN);
570                 this->stop();
571                 irFarLeft = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_LEFT);
572                 irFarRight = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_RIGHT);
573                 delay(50); //wait for IR
574
575                 if (irFarLeft > 100 && irFarRight > 100)
```

```

574     {
575         this->setSpeed(-100,+100);
576         delay(TIME_WALL_CHECK_TURN+500);
577         return WALL_RIGHT; // wall detected on the left
578     }
579     else
580     {
581         this->setSpeed(-100,+100);
582         delay(TIME_WALL_CHECK_TURN);
583         timeAntiRecheck = millis() + TIME_WALL_RECHECK;
584         return NO_WALL;
585     }
586 }
587 else
588 {
589     //incase the robot wants to turn on itself, but an obstacle is too near and
590     //would destroy the deployed cage
591     this->setSpeed(-100,-100);
592     delay(1000);
593 }
594 }
595 }
596
597 void Tokamak::gotoHeading(int16_t direction_home)
598 {
599
600     int16_t currentHeading = this->getHeading();
601     int16_t error;
602
603     error = currentHeading - direction_home;
604
605     // in order to avoid the -180 -> 180 jump
606     if(error > 180){
607         error = error - 360 ;
608     }
609     else if(error < -180){
610         error = error + 360 ;
611     }
612
613     //reduce error so that the navigation function can use it
614     if(error>100) error = 100;
615     else if(error<-100) error = -100;
616
617     this->navigation_avoidance(-error);
618 }
619
620 void Tokamak::navigation_avoidance(int16_t error)
621 {
622     uint16_t irLeft, irRight, irFarLeft, irFarRight;
623     int8_t speedL,speedR;
624     static int8_t countL,countR;
625
626     irFarLeft = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_LEFT);
627     irFarRight = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_RIGHT);
628     irLeft = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_CENTER_LEFT);
629     irRight = analogRead(SENSOR_IR_CENTER_RIGHT);
630
631     static uint32_t timeAntiLoop = 0;
632
633     if(millis() > timeAntiLoop)
634     {

```

```
635 // every 3 seconds reset the anti-loop timer and wheel counters
636 countL = 0;
637 countR = 0;
638 timeAntiLoop = millis() + TIME_ANTI_LOOP;
639 }
640 if(countL > 3 && countR > 3) // this condition is to not get stuck
641 {
642
643     if (this->flags.cagePosition == CAGE_DOWN) //reverse
644     {
645         speedL = -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
646         speedR = -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
647         this->setSpeed(speedL, speedR);
648         delay(500);
649     }
650     if(error>0)
651     {
652         speedL = CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
653         speedR = -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
654     }
655     else
656     {
657         speedL = -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
658         speedR = CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
659     }
660     // set speed immediately
661     this->setSpeed(speedL, speedR);
662     // turn for 1 second
663     delay(1000);
664     // reset the counters
665     countL = 0;
666     countR = 0;
667 }
668 // avoid obstacles using the IR sensors
669 else if(irRight > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_CENTER_CAGE)
670 {
671     // turn on itself
672     speedL = CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
673     speedR = -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
674     countL++;
675 }
676 else if(irLeft > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_CENTER_CAGE)
677 {
678     speedL = -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
679     speedR = CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
680     countR++;
681 }
682 else if(irFarRight > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE)
683 {
684     // block one wheel, reverse the other
685     speedL = -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
686     speedR = 0;
687     countL++;
688 }
689 else if(irFarLeft > CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE)
690 {
691     speedL = 0;
692     speedR = -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
693     countR++;
694 }
695 else
696 {
```



```

697     if( abs(error)<5 )
698     {
699         // under an error of 5 units go straight
700         speedL = CONST_SPEED_MAX;
701         speedR = CONST_SPEED_MAX;
702     }
703     else
704     {
705         if(error>0)
706         {
707             if(error == 100 && irFarRight > 100)
708             {
709                 speedL = CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
710                 speedR = -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
711             }
712             else
713             {
714                 speedL = CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
715                 speedR =(100 - abs(error));/* CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE / 100 );
716             }
717             //Serial.write("turn right\t");
718         }
719         else
720         {
721             if(abs(error) == 100 && irFarLeft > 100)
722             {
723                 speedL = -CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
724                 speedR = CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
725             }
726             else
727             {
728                 speedL = (100-abs(error)); /* CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE / 100 );
729                 speedR = CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE;
730             }
731             //Serial.write("turn left\t");
732         }
733     }
734 }
735
736 this->setSpeed(speedL, speedR);
737 }

```

Listing 5: Robot class

```

1  /*
   *****
2  *
3  * Title:      STI competition Arduino code for the Tokamak robot
4  * Date:      2014-06-06
5  *
6  *****
   */
7  #ifndef _PRISMINO_MASTER
8  #define _PRISMINO_MASTER
9
10 // comment this line when testing without the motor controller
11 #define ENABLE_CONTROLLER
12 // comment this line to disable all bluetooth functionalities
13 #define ENABLE_BLUETOOTH
14 // comment this line to turn off sounds
15 #define ENABLE_SOUND
16 // comment this line to disable compass

```

```
17 #define ENABLE_COMPASS
18
19 #define Bluetooth Serial1
20
21 #define I2C_MOTOR_CONTROLLER_ADDRESS 0x04
22 #define I2C_COMPASS_ADDRESS 0x1E
23
24 #define PIN_LIGHTS 9
25
26 #define SENSOR_IR_LEFT 0
27 #define SENSOR_IR_CENTER_LEFT 1
28 #define SENSOR_IR_CENTER_RIGHT 2
29 #define SENSOR_IR_RIGHT 3
30
31 #define SERVO_LEFT_UP 10
32 // set up position to 5 when the mast is installed
33 // #define SERVO_LEFT_UP 50
34 #define SERVO_LEFT_DOWN 170
35 #define SERVO_RIGHT_UP SERVO_LEFT_DOWN
36 #define SERVO_RIGHT_DOWN SERVO_LEFT_UP
37
38 #define TONE_I2C_ERROR 3300
39 #define TONE_BEEP 440
40 #define TONE_BATTERY 1100
41
42 #define TIME_CHECK_BATTERY 1000
43 #define TIME_ANTI_LOOP 3000
44 #define TIME_ANTI_LOOP_TIMEOUT_TURN 1000
45 // if a bottle hasn't been detected during this time consider it a false positive
46 #define TIME_BOTTLE_SEEN_TIMEOUT 2000
47 // after a false positive the robot won't check for a bottle for this amount of time
48 #define TIME_NEXT_BOTTLE_CHECK 1000
49 // when an obstacle has been seen instead of a wall in the STATE_FIND_WALL state do
    not check for a wall for this amount of time
50 #define TIME_WALL_RECHECK 4000
51 #define TIME_TURN_FOLLOW_WALL 1500
52 #define TIME_TURN_AROUND 1000
53
54 #define TIME_WALL_CHECK_TURN 700
55
56 #define TIME_GRAB_LOST_BOTTLE 500
57
58 // in percent the maximum allowed setting speed
59 #define CONST_SPEED_MAX 100
60 // in percent the maximum speed while avoiding obstacles
61 #define CONST_SPEED_OBSTACLE 100
62 // in percent the speed of approach when a bottle was seen, 60 is not enough with
    low-power 172:1 and 7.2V battery
63 #define CONST_SPEED_BOTTLE 80
64 // after every setSpeed() wait this long before continuing
65 #define CONST_SPEED_SET_DELAY 50
66
67 // this is the threshold when to lower the cage, the constant indicated the minimum
    box size the bottle must be detected in
68 #define CONST_BOTTLE_SIZE_LOWER_CAGE 90
69 // acceptable error when heading towards a direction (goes straight forward)
70 #define CONST_DEVIATION_OK 15
71 #define CONST_DEVIATION_OK_STRICT 5
72 // number of times the robot must change direction without going forwards for it to
    be considered stuck
73 #define CONST_LOOP_TURN_TIMES 3
74
```

```

75 // in milliseconds, the pause time between 1 degree change
76 #define CONST_MAX_SERVO_SPEED 10
77 // calibrated value, about 7.1V
78 #define CONST_BATTERY_LOW 470
79
80 // IR sensor value under which an obstacle is detected
81 #define CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE 300
82 #define CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_CENTER 310
83 // IR sensor values to use when the cage is deployed
84 #define CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_SIDE_CAGE 160
85 #define CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_CENTER_CAGE 140
86 // value at which there an obstacle far away
87 #define CONST_IR_NO_OBSTACLE 100
88 #define CONST_IR_TOO_CLOSE 250
89
90 // when following a wall the sensor should remain between these values
91 #define CONST_IR_WALL_FOLLOW_MIN 160
92 #define CONST_IR_WALL_FOLLOW_MAX 200
93
94 #define CONST_IR_OBSTACLE_FAR 100
95
96 // direction towards which to go when going home
97 #define CONST_HEADING_HOME 50
98
99 enum comm_methods
100 {
101     USB,
102     BLUETOOTH
103 };
104
105 enum cage_positions
106 {
107     CAGE_UP,
108     CAGE_DOWN
109 };
110
111 enum state_codes
112 {
113     STATE_SEARCHING,
114     STATE_FETCHING_BOTTLE,
115     STATE_LOWER_CAGE,
116     STATE_GO_HOME,
117     STATE_RAISE_CAGE
118 };
119
120 enum return_codes
121 {
122     OK,
123     FAIL,
124     REPEAT
125 };
126
127 enum sounds
128 {
129     COIN,
130     POWERUP,
131     ONEUP,
132     FLAGPOLE
133 };
134
135 enum sides
136 {

```

```
137     LEFT,
138     RIGHT
139 };
140
141 enum state_wall
142 {
143     NO_WALL,
144     WALL_LEFT,
145     WALL_RIGHT
146 };
147
148 // #define ENTRY_STATE STATE_SEARCHING
149 #define ENTRY_STATE STATE_SEARCHING
150
151 class Tokamak
152 {
153 public:
154     struct Flags
155     {
156         uint8_t enableFrontLeds :1;
157         uint8_t cagePosition :1;
158         uint8_t running: 1;
159         uint8_t wall: 2;
160     };
161
162     Servo servoLeft;
163     Servo servoRight;
164     uint16_t batteryVoltage;
165     uint16_t currentLeft;
166     uint16_t currentRight;
167
168     char readInput(comm_methods);
169     void sendOutput(comm_methods, const char*);
170
171     Flags flags;
172
173     Tokamak();
174     void setCagePosition(cage_positions);
175     void setSpeed(int8_t, int8_t);
176     void turn(int16_t, int8_t);
177     void stop(void);
178     void setLights(boolean);
179     void checkBattery(void);
180     int16_t getHeading();
181     // default speed is the maximum
182     void headTo(int16_t, int8_t = CONST_SPEED_MAX);
183     void readIrSensors(uint16_t*, uint16_t*, uint16_t*, uint16_t*);
184     void playSound(sounds);
185
186     void followWall(uint16_t*, sides, int8_t = CONST_SPEED_MAX);
187     void navigation_avoidance(int16_t);
188     void gotoHeading(int16_t direction_home = CONST_HEADING_HOME);
189     void resetReturnBase(void);
190     return_codes goHome(int16_t = CONST_HEADING_HOME);
191     uint8_t detectWall(void);
192 };
193
194 #endif
```

Listing 6: Robot header

```
1 #ifndef _sound_h
2 #define _sound_h
```

```

3
4 // define a note with a pitch and a duration
5 struct note
6 {
7     uint16_t pitch;
8     uint16_t duration;
9 };
10
11 // define a sound that has a length (number of notes) and a list of notes
12 struct sound
13 {
14     uint8_t length;
15     note *notes;
16 };
17
18 #endif

```

Listing 7: Sound header

```

1 // Frequencies for equal-tempered scale, A4 = 440Hz
2 // Reference: http://www.phy.mtu.edu/~suits/notefreqs.html
3
4 #ifndef _pitch_h
5 #define _pitch_h
6
7 // Scientific name
8 #define C0 16
9 #define C0s 17
10 #define D0b 17
11 #define D0 18
12 #define D0s 19
13 #define E0b 19
14 #define E0 21
15 #define F0 22
16 #define F0s 23
17 #define G0b 23
18 #define G0 25
19 #define G0s 26
20 #define A0b 26
21 #define A0 28
22 #define A0s 29
23 #define B0b 29
24 #define B0 31
25 #define C1 33
26 #define C1s 35
27 #define D1b 35
28 #define D1 37
29 #define D1s 39
30 #define E1b 39
31 #define E1 41
32 #define F1 44
33 #define F1s 46
34 #define G1b 46
35 #define G1 49
36 #define G1s 52
37 #define A1b 52
38 #define A1 55
39 #define A1s 58
40 #define B1b 58
41 #define B1 62
42 #define C2 65
43 #define C2s 69
44 #define D2b 69

```

```
45 #define D2 73
46 #define D2s 78
47 #define E2b 78
48 #define E2 82
49 #define F2 87
50 #define F2s 93
51 #define G2b 93
52 #define G2 98
53 #define G2s 104
54 #define A2b 104
55 #define A2 110
56 #define A2s 117
57 #define B2b 117
58 #define B2 123
59 #define C3 131
60 #define C3s 139
61 #define D3b 139
62 #define D3 147
63 #define D3s 156
64 #define E3b 156
65 #define E3 165
66 #define F3 175
67 #define F3s 185
68 #define G3b 185
69 #define G3 196
70 #define G3s 208
71 #define A3b 208
72 #define A3 220
73 #define A3s 233
74 #define B3b 233
75 #define B3 247
76 #define C4 262
77 #define C4s 277
78 #define D4b 277
79 #define D4 294
80 #define D4s 311
81 #define E4b 311
82 #define E4 330
83 #define F4 349
84 #define F4s 370
85 #define G4b 370
86 #define G4 392
87 #define G4s 415
88 #define A4b 415
89 #define A4 440
90 #define A4s 466
91 #define B4b 466
92 #define B4 494
93 #define C5 523
94 #define C5s 554
95 #define D5b 554
96 #define D5 587
97 #define D5s 622
98 #define E5b 622
99 #define E5 659
100 #define F5 698
101 #define F5s 740
102 #define G5b 740
103 #define G5 784
104 #define G5s 831
105 #define A5b 831
106 #define A5 880
```

```
107 #define A5s 932
108 #define B5b 932
109 #define B5 988
110 #define C6 1047
111 #define C6s 1109
112 #define D6b 1109
113 #define D6 1175
114 #define D6s 1245
115 #define E6b 1245
116 #define E6 1319
117 #define F6 1397
118 #define F6s 1480
119 #define G6b 1480
120 #define G6 1568
121 #define G6s 1661
122 #define A6b 1661
123 #define A6 1760
124 #define A6s 1865
125 #define B6b 1865
126 #define B6 1976
127 #define C7 2093
128 #define C7s 2217
129 #define D7b 2217
130 #define D7 2349
131 #define D7s 2489
132 #define E7b 2489
133 #define E7 2637
134 #define F7 2794
135 #define F7s 2960
136 #define G7b 2960
137 #define G7 3136
138 #define G7s 3322
139 #define A7b 3322
140 #define A7 3520
141 #define A7s 3729
142 #define B7b 3729
143 #define B7 3951
144 #define C8 4186
145 #define C8s 4435
146 #define D8b 4435
147 #define D8 4699
148 #define D8s 4978
149
150 // Piano key number
151 #define P01 28
152 #define P02 29
153 #define P03 31
154 #define P04 33
155 #define P05 35
156 #define P06 37
157 #define P07 39
158 #define P08 41
159 #define P09 44
160 #define P10 46
161 #define P11 49
162 #define P12 52
163 #define P13 55
164 #define P14 58
165 #define P15 62
166 #define P16 65
167 #define P17 69
168 #define P18 73
```

```
169 #define P19 78
170 #define P20 82
171 #define P21 87
172 #define P22 93
173 #define P23 98
174 #define P24 104
175 #define P25 110
176 #define P26 117
177 #define P27 123
178 #define P28 131
179 #define P29 139
180 #define P30 147
181 #define P31 156
182 #define P32 165
183 #define P33 175
184 #define P34 185
185 #define P35 196
186 #define P36 208
187 #define P37 220
188 #define P38 233
189 #define P39 247
190 #define P40 262
191 #define P41 277
192 #define P42 294
193 #define P43 311
194 #define P44 330
195 #define P45 349
196 #define P46 370
197 #define P47 392
198 #define P48 415
199 #define P49 440
200 #define P50 466
201 #define P51 494
202 #define P52 523
203 #define P53 554
204 #define P54 587
205 #define P55 622
206 #define P56 659
207 #define P57 698
208 #define P58 740
209 #define P59 784
210 #define P60 831
211 #define P61 880
212 #define P62 932
213 #define P63 988
214 #define P64 1047
215 #define P65 1109
216 #define P66 1175
217 #define P67 1245
218 #define P68 1319
219 #define P69 1397
220 #define P70 1480
221 #define P71 1568
222 #define P72 1661
223 #define P73 1760
224 #define P74 1865
225 #define P75 1976
226 #define P76 2093
227 #define P77 2217
228 #define P78 2349
229 #define P79 2489
230 #define P80 2637
```



```

231 #define P81 2794
232 #define P82 2960
233 #define P83 3136
234 #define P84 3322
235 #define P85 3520
236 #define P86 3729
237 #define P87 3951
238 #define P88 4186
239
240 #endif

```

Listing 8: Pitch header

C.3 Motor controller source code

```

1  /*
   * *****
2  *
3  * Title:      WildThumper Motor Controller sketch
4  * Date:      2014-05-27
5  *
6  * *****
   */
7  #include <wildthumper.h>
8  #include <Wire.h>
9
10 #define I2C_ADDRESS 4
11
12 #define TIME_CHECK_BATTERY 500
13 #define CONST_BATTERY_LEVEL_GOOD 470
14
15 #define PIN_BACK_LIGHT 12
16 #define TIME_BACK_LIGHT_BLINK 50
17 #define TIME_BACK_LIGHT_PASUE 500
18
19 // must be an even number
20 #define CONST_BACK_LIGHT_BLINK_TIMES 6
21
22 uint32_t backLightNextBlink = 0;
23 uint32_t backLightBlinkTimes = CONST_BACK_LIGHT_BLINK_TIMES;
24
25 WildThumper controller;
26
27 uint8_t batteryGood = 1;
28 uint8_t buffer[6];
29 uint16_t input;
30 uint32_t timeCheckBattery = 0;
31
32 void setup()
33 {
34     pinMode(LED, OUTPUT);
35     digitalWrite(LED, HIGH);
36
37     pinMode(PIN_BACK_LIGHT, OUTPUT);
38
39     Wire.begin(I2C_ADDRESS);
40     // disable internal pull-ups
41     digitalWrite(SDA, LOW);
42     digitalWrite(SCL, LOW);
43
44     Wire.onReceive(receiveEvent);

```

```
45 Wire.onRequest(requestEvent);
46 }
47
48 void loop()
49 {
50     // check the battery every now and then
51     if(millis() > timeCheckBattery + TIME_CHECK_BATTERY)
52     {
53         // show the battery state on the on-board LED
54         if(controller.battery() < CONST_BATTERY_LEVEL_GOOD)
55         {
56             batteryGood = 0;
57             digitalWrite(LED, LOW);
58         }
59         timeCheckBattery = millis() + TIME_CHECK_BATTERY;
60     }
61
62     if(millis() > backLightNextBlink && batteryGood)
63     {
64         if(backLightBlinkTimes)
65         {
66             backLightBlinkTimes--;
67             digitalWrite(PIN_BACK_LIGHT, !digitalRead(PIN_BACK_LIGHT));
68             backLightNextBlink = millis() + TIME_BACK_LIGHT_BLINK;
69         }
70         else
71         {
72             backLightBlinkTimes = CONST_BACK_LIGHT_BLINK_TIMES;
73             backLightNextBlink = millis() + TIME_BACK_LIGHT_PASUE;
74         }
75     }
76     else if(millis() > backLightNextBlink && !batteryGood)
77     {
78         // if the battery has gone under the threshold level blink continuously
79         digitalWrite(PIN_BACK_LIGHT, !digitalRead(PIN_BACK_LIGHT));
80         backLightNextBlink = millis() + TIME_BACK_LIGHT_BLINK;
81     }
82 }
83
84 void requestEvent()
85 {
86     input = controller.battery();
87     buffer[0] = input >> 8;
88     buffer[1] = input & 0xff;
89
90     input = controller.currentLeft();
91     buffer[2] = input >> 8;
92     buffer[3] = input & 0xff;
93
94     input = controller.currentRight();
95     buffer[4] = input >> 8;
96     buffer[5] = input & 0xff;
97
98     Wire.write(buffer, 6);
99 }
100
101 void receiveEvent(int howMany)
102 {
103     static int8_t speedLeft = 0;
104     static int8_t speedRight = 0;
105
106     while(Wire.available())
```

```

107 {
108     char c = Wire.read();
109     if(c == 's')
110     {
111         speedLeft = Wire.read();
112         speedRight = Wire.read();
113         controller.setSpeed(speedLeft, speedRight);
114     }
115 }
116 }

```

Listing 9: Motor controller source code

```

1  /*
   * *****
2  *
3  * Title:      WildThumper Motor Controller Library v1.0
4  * File:      wildthumper.cpp
5  * Date:      2014-05-27
6  * Author:    Karl Kangur <karl.kangur@epfl.ch>
7  *
8  * *****
   */
9  #include <wildthumper.h>
10
11 static volatile int8_t speedLeft, speedRight;
12
13 // initialisation routine setting up the timer, enabling pins and interrupt vectors
14 WildThumper::WildThumper(void)
15 {
16     // h-bridge uses timer/counter 2 (8-bit), channels A and B
17     // stop timer, set port operations to normal and waveform generation mode to Fast
18     // PWM (mode 3)
19     // counter top value is 0xff (255) which gives 16MHz/256 = 62.5kHz, a prescaler is
20     // required
21     TCCR2A = (1 << WGM21) | (1 << WGM20);
22     // stop the timer set by Arduino (stops the default PWM)
23     TCCR2B = 0;
24
25     // set h-bridge control ports to output mode
26     DDRB |= (1 << 3);
27     DDRD |= (1 << 6) | (1 << 5) | (1 << 3);
28
29     // enable interrupt vectors
30     TIMSK2 = (1 << OCIE2A) | (1 << OCIE2B) | (1 << TOIE2);
31     // enable overflow and compare interrupts for channels A and B
32     TIFR2 = (1 << OCF2A) | (1 << OCF2B) | (1 << TOV2);
33
34     // just in case enable interrupts if not already done by Arduino
35     asm("sei");
36 }
37
38 // sets pwm for h-bridge
39 // pin mapping reference for the Atmega168: http://arduino.cc/en/Hacking/
40 // PinMapping168
41 void WildThumper::setSpeed(int8_t _speedLeft, int8_t _speedRight)
42 {
43     // stop the PWM by clearing the prescaler
44     TCCR2B = 0;
45
46     // reset the h-bridge by clearing all port values
47     PORTB &= ~(1 << 3);

```

```
45 PORTD &= ~(1 << 6) | (1 << 5) | (1 << 3));
46
47 // do not allow higher or lower values than 100 or -100
48 if(_speedLeft < 0)
49 {
50     speedLeft = _speedLeft < -100 ? -100 : _speedLeft;
51 }
52 else
53 {
54     speedLeft = _speedLeft > 100 ? 100 : _speedLeft;
55 }
56
57 if(_speedRight < 0)
58 {
59     speedRight = _speedRight < -100 ? -100 : _speedRight;
60 }
61 else
62 {
63     speedRight = _speedRight > 100 ? 100 : _speedRight;
64 }
65
66 // set compare interrupt
67 uint16_t temp;
68
69 // PWM compare value between 0 and 255
70 temp = (long) 255 * (speedLeft > 0 ? speedLeft : -speedLeft) / 100;
71
72 OCR2A = temp & 0xff;
73
74 temp = (long) 255 * (speedRight > 0 ? speedRight : -speedRight) / 100;
75
76 OCR2B = temp & 0xff;
77
78 // reset timer
79 TCNT2 = 0;
80
81 // set prescaler to 64 (enable timer), do not set a lower prescaler
82 // it won't work because of hardware restrictions (power transistors do not
83 // commute fast enough)
84 // this gives 16MHz/256/64 = 976.5625Hz, documentation says maximum frequency is
85 // 24kHz
86 TCCR2B |= (1 << CS22);
87 }
88
89 // interrupt vectors for pin toggling
90 ISR(TIMER2_COMPA_vect)
91 {
92     if(speedLeft > 0)
93     {
94         PORTD &= ~(1 << 3);
95     }
96     else if(speedLeft < 0)
97     {
98         PORTB &= ~(1 << 3);
99     }
100 }
101
102 ISR(TIMER2_COMPB_vect)
103 {
104     if(speedRight > 0)
105     {
106         PORTD &= ~(1 << 5);
107     }
108     else if(speedRight < 0)
109     {
110         PORTB &= ~(1 << 5);
111     }
112 }
```

```

105     }
106     else if(speedRight < 0)
107     {
108         PORTD &= ~(1 << 6);
109     }
110 }
111
112 ISR(TIMER2_OVF_vect)
113 {
114     if(speedLeft > 0)
115     {
116         PORTD |= (1 << 3);
117     }
118     else if(speedLeft < 0)
119     {
120         PORTB |= (1 << 3);
121     }
122
123     if(speedRight > 0)
124     {
125         PORTD |= (1 << 5);
126     }
127     else if(speedRight < 0)
128     {
129         PORTD |= (1 << 6);
130     }
131 }
132
133 uint16_t WildThumper::battery(void)
134 {
135     return analogRead(PIN_BATTERY);
136 }
137
138 uint8_t WildThumper::currentLeft(void)
139 {
140     return analogRead(PIN_CURRENTL);
141 }
142
143 uint8_t WildThumper::currentRight(void)
144 {
145     return analogRead(PIN_CURRENTR);
146 }
147
148 uint8_t WildThumper::currentTotal(void)
149 {
150     return this->currentLeft() + this->currentRight();
151 }

```

Listing 10: Motor controller library

```

1  /*
2      *****
3      *
4      * Title:      WildThumper Motor Controller Library v1.0
5      * File:       wildthumper.h
6      * Date:       2014-05-27
7      * Author:     Karl Kangur <karl.kangur@epfl.ch>
8      *
9      *****
10     */
11 #include <Arduino.h>

```

```
11 #ifndef _wildthumper_h
12 #define _wildthumper_h
13
14 // Servo output definitions
15 #define S0 2
16 #define S1 4
17 #define S2 7
18 #define S3 8
19 #define S4 9
20 #define S5 10
21 #define S6 12
22
23 // Other constant definitions
24 #define PIN_BATTERY 0 // Analog input 00
25 #define PIN_CURRENTL 6 // Analog input 06
26 #define PIN_CURRENTR 7 // Analog input 07
27 #define LED 13
28
29 void setSpeed(int8_t, int8_t);
30
31 class WildThumper
32 {
33     public:
34     WildThumper(void);
35     void setSpeed(int8_t, int8_t);
36
37     uint16_t battery(void);
38     uint8_t currentLeft(void);
39     uint8_t currentRight(void);
40     uint8_t currentTotal(void);
41     uint8_t charging(void);
42 };
43
44 #endif
```

Listing 11: Motor controller library header