

# Monkeybot Report

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## 1. Introduction and Motivation

The monkeybot is a two-link brachiating robot designed to climb along vertical walls. It attaches to the wall surface using electromagnets at the end of each link. A DC motor at the pivot provides torque to actuate the robot during its dynamic swinging motion. The energy pumped into the system by this torque should allow the robot to overcome friction and swing side to side or climb. Northwestern University's laboratory for intelligent mechanical systems can use the monkeybot for research in dynamic locomotion of hybrid mechanical systems. Figure 1 below shows the monkeybot in its original state with its existing hardware.

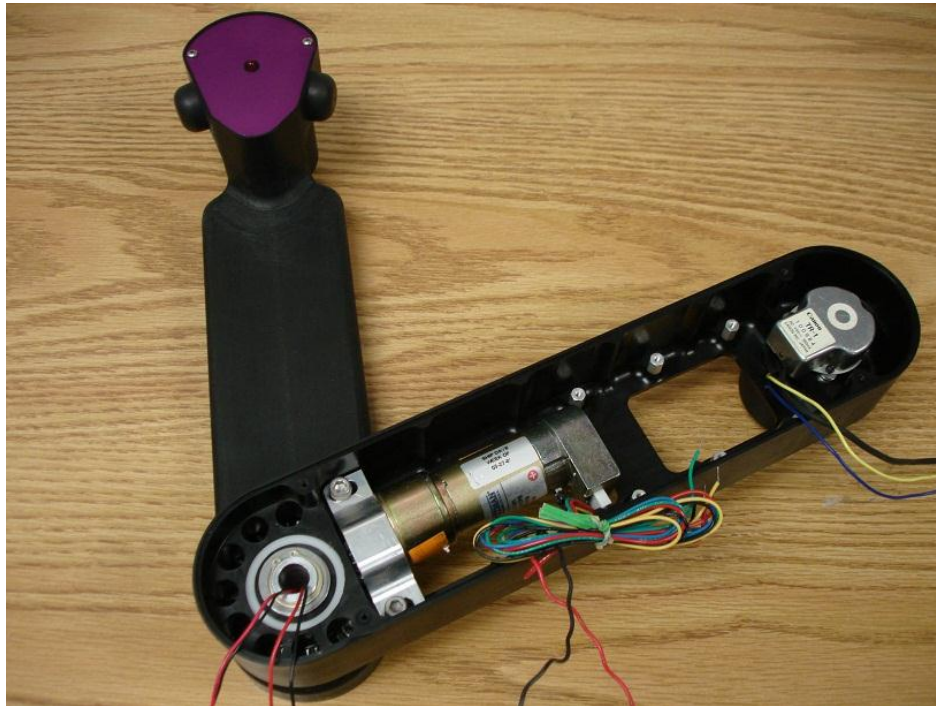


Figure 1: Existing monkeybot hardware

The monkeybot has completed open-loop, timed swinging motions successfully before the start of this project. However, in order to further investigate and integrate a more robust closed-loop control strategy, more sensors were required.

## 2. Sensor and Hardware Requirements

### Existing Monkeybot Hardware

The mechanical portion of the monkeybot was designed by Kinea Design. The following section describes the existing mechanical components and properties of the hardware.

### Pittman GM8224 Motor

The motor used in the monkeybot runs nominally on 24V with 4.33 ohm coil resistance. The rated stall current of the motor is 5.54A and the maximum torque is 2 Nm. Although the maximum amperage is rated at over 5A, during testing, we never experienced current draws over 2A. The maximum speed of the motor is about 500 rpm and it is geared 19:5:1. The motor is attached to a 500 line encoder with A, B, and index signal pins. The motor encoder runs on 5V. Figure 2 to the right shows the motor on the monkeybot.



Figure 2: Pittman GM8224 motor

### Electromagnets

There are two electromagnets specially designed for the monkeybot to provide free rotation even when active. At 22 volts, we measured the current draw at between 0.3 and 0.5 A. Although freely moving, there is a nominal amount of friction in the bearings; however, we did not find this to be significant in the operation of the monkeybot.



Figure 3: Electromagnet

### Laser Rotary Encoders

Each electromagnet has a shaft which rotates with the magnets on the backside of the assembly. This shaft is designed for the Canon TR-36 laser rotary encoder which uses an optical disc and case which measures the rotation of the disc. This encoder has 3,600 counts per revolution and runs on 5V.



Figure 4: Encoder Optical Disk and Casing



## New Monkeybot Hardware

In order to provide more absolute values for feedback, inertial measurement units on each link were desired. Two-dimensional accelerometers could be used to provide feedback on the absolute orientation of each link as shown in Figure 5 below. Adding gyros also provides information on each link's angular velocity. The main advantage of using these sensors is that the data provided is absolute, whereas encoders only provide relative orientations, as shown on the right in Figure 5 below.

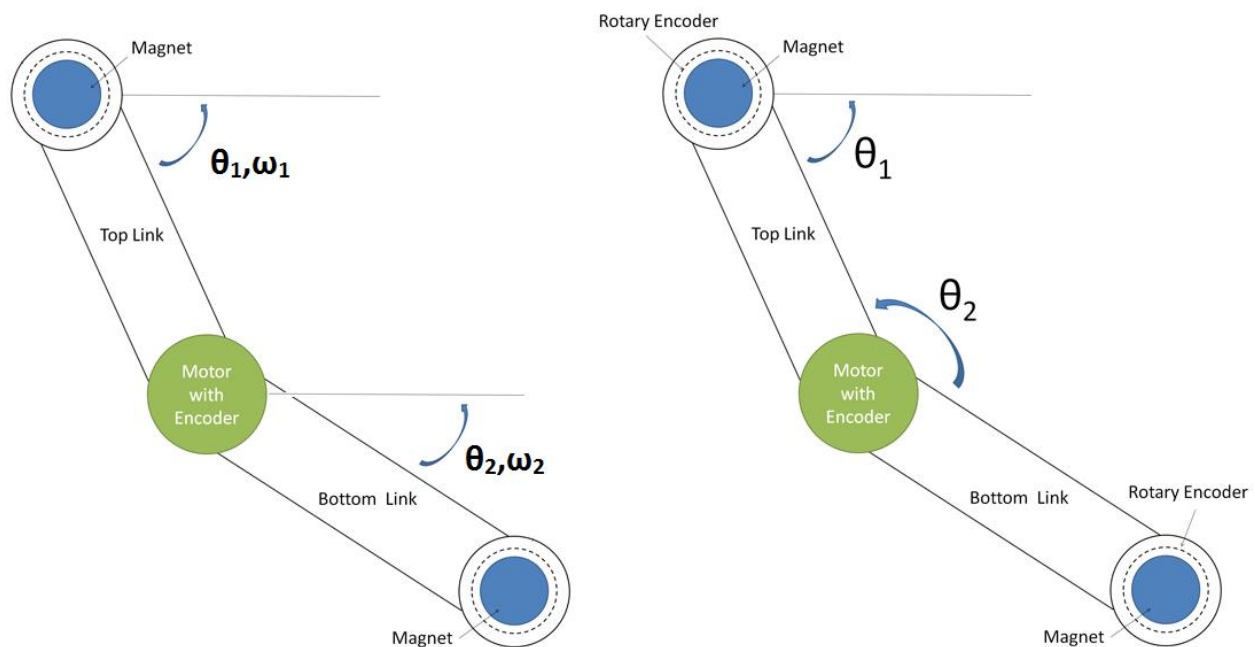


Figure 5: Data provided by IMU's (left) and relative positions provided by encoders (right)

Based on videos of the monkeybot in its swinging motion, the range for both accelerometers and gyros could be estimated. It was observed that the top link swings below  $100^\circ/\text{s}$  and the bottom link swings around  $400^\circ/\text{s}$ . These angular velocities provide accelerations no more than five times the acceleration of gravity. Thus a gyro with a  $\pm 400^\circ/\text{s}$  range and an accelerometer with a  $\pm 5g$  range would suffice for each link.

To aid in the introduction of more robust control strategies, it was determined that a current controller was required. With a current controller, a feedback strategy as shown in Figure 6 below could be implemented.

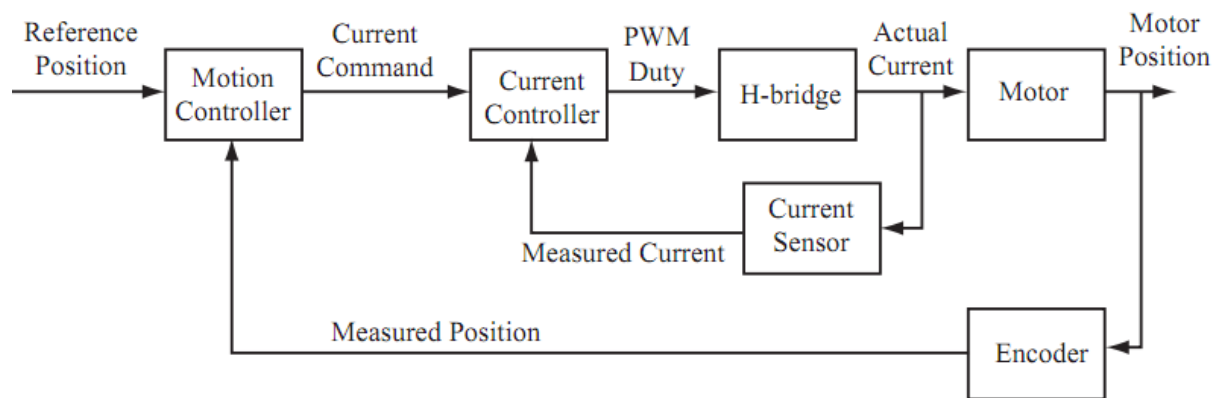


Figure 6: Motor control loop using current sensor

Thus, a current sensor that could handle the current through the motor was deemed advantageous. The maximum current the motor could handle was 5 Amps, so a current sensor that is able to handle this would be safe.

The electromagnets require 22 volts to operate. The microcontroller, however, uses a 3.3 V logic level. Hardware to manage the power and step the voltage down was necessary. A 5 volt line was also needed for certain components. Figure 7 below shows the overall relationships and hierarchy for: power management, control, sensors, and communication.

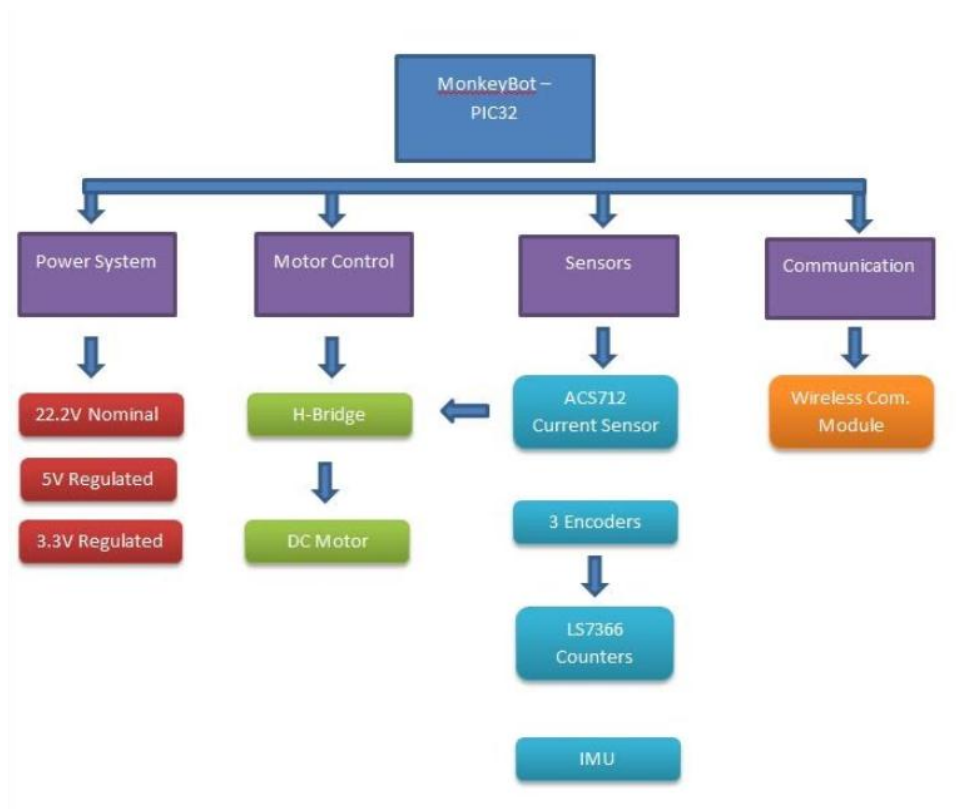


Figure 7: Overall System and Component Hierarchy

### 3. Electrical Component Selection

A challenge in the electrical design of the monkeybot was finding appropriate components to satisfy all of the hardware and sensor requirements for the monkeybot. We had a few basic groups components: motor control, orientation/speed sensing, and communication. This section will break down the exact components that were used in this design iteration of the monkeybot.

#### Motor Control

The crux of the motor control consisted of two basic components – the current sensor, and the motor driver. Initially, we planned to use an off the shelf motor driver controlled by a filtered pwm signal; however, the driver was burnt out during testing, so we then decided to use the L298N chip.

##### L298N Full-Bridge Driver

The L298N is a full-bridge driver which has two channels. Each channel can carry up to 2A, and the circuit can be parallelized resulting in a 4A driver. Although the stall current rating on the monkeybot motor is 5.5A, during testing, we didn't see current over 2A, and using the L298N in parallel didn't present any problems during testing. If the motor does require over 4A, a different motor driver would have to be used. We had two inputs to the L298N, a digital direction pin, and a PWM signal. A third digital pin could be useful to turn the L298N on or off, allowing the motor to coast instead of brake.

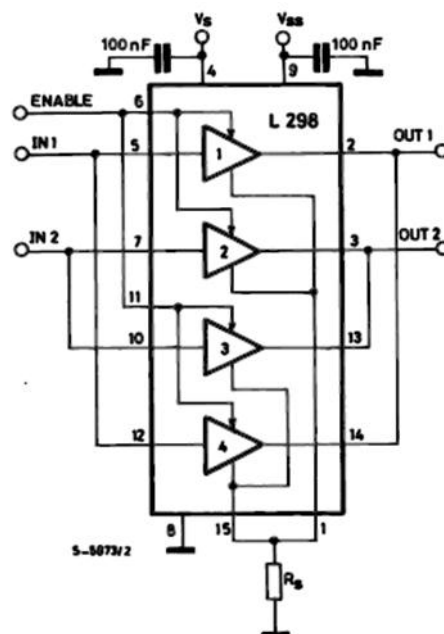


Figure 8: Parallel connection of the L298N

### ACS711 Current Sensor

The current sensing chip we chose to use was the ACS711. There are two different chips with different sensitivities,  $\pm 12.5\text{A}$  and  $\pm 25\text{A}$ . Since the motor can't come close to the lower bound, we used the  $\pm 12.5\text{A}$  chip to get a sensitivity of  $110\text{mA}$  from the IC. The chip runs on  $3.3\text{V}$  and outputs between  $0\text{--}3.3\text{V}$  with  $0\text{A}$  at  $1.65\text{V}$ . Since the motor that is being only uses a fraction of the current that the sensor can measure, the sensitivity of the sensor can be boosted using an op-amp to amplify the output of the current sensor before the analog input on the PIC measures the signal. The op-amp circuit is a standard non-inverting amplifier design. The schematic of the current sensor and op-amp is shown below in Figure 9.

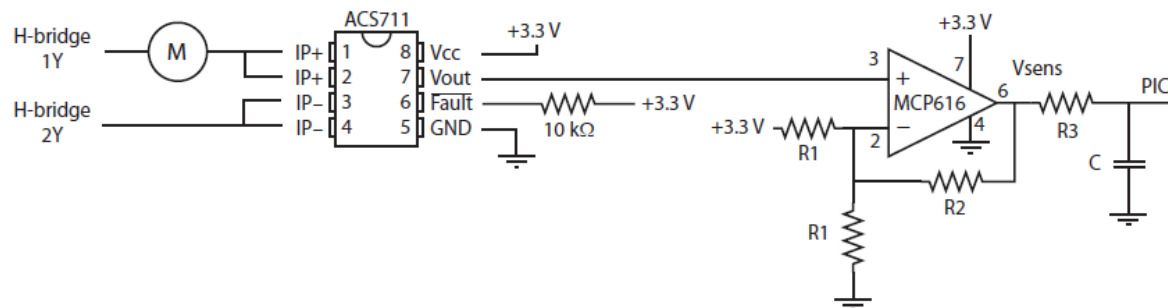


Figure 9: Current sensor and op-amp schematic

## Sensing

### Pololu Dual Axis Gyro

Although this gyro provides both pitch and yaw ( $x$  and  $z$ ) rotational velocities, for the monkeybot, we only use the yaw axis of the gyro. The feature of this gyro is that it provides two different sensitivity levels: up to  $100\text{ degree/sec}$  and up to  $400\text{ degrees/sec}$ . There are two separate pins for the yaw rotation, one for each sensitivity. The sensor runs on  $3.3\text{V}$  and the outputs are  $0\text{--}3.3\text{V}$  with the zero velocity at  $1.65\text{V}$ . The gyro sensor is also gravity independent, so orientation does not affect the output.

### Pololu 3-Axis Accelerometer

The Pololu accelerometer measures all three axis; however, again, we only need planar motion, so we have used the  $x$  and  $y$  outputs. This accelerometer also provides two different sensitivity levels,  $1.5\text{g}$  and  $6\text{g}$ . Unlike the gyros, the sensitivity is selected with a digital pin and there is one analog output pin for each axis. The sensor runs on  $3.3\text{V}$  and the outputs are  $0\text{--}3.3\text{V}$  with zero acceleration at  $1.65\text{V}$ . Gravitational acceleration is captured by the sensor, so at zero velocity, the accelerometer measures the component of gravity along an axis.





Figure 10: MMA7361L 3-Axis Accelerometer  $\pm 1.5/6g$

### LS7366R Counter

The LS7366R counters are SPI 32-bit counters which can measure two counting pins and an index pin. The use of these chips frees up the PIC timers and allows the PIC to poll the counters over an SPI channel to get the current count.

## Power

### DC-DC Converter - EC4BW

Since the monkeybot motor and electromagnets need a high voltage source, we decided to use a DC-DC converter to step down to 5V. Since both the magnet and switching electromagnets are very noisy, the converter provides a better output signal with very low ripple despite any inconsistency in the input. It also allows the monkeybot to operate at different voltages if a different motor or battery combination is tested. The EC4BW converter accepts input voltages from 9-36V and can output up to 2A of current.

### N-channel Power MOSFET

We decided to use a power MOSFET as the switch for the electromagnets since they draw very little power in either on or off states and are easy to interface with the PIC. We first tried a SO-23 surface mount package; however, the transistors could not handle the current and did not have a large enough thermal rating. The MOSFETs that worked were the NTD5865NL transistors which have a 52W power rating. The special characteristic of these transistors is a low gate transition voltage, under 2V to allow direct connection to the PIC. In the future, it may be best to add an optoisolator in case of transistor failure; however, we have not had any issues with these transistors.

## Communication

### XBEE Wireless Module

The XBee module is a well-documented serial communication device which we decided to use as our primary means of data transfer and for programming our PIC onboard the monkeybot. The XBee chip simply acts as an invisible serial cable, so implementation is very straightforward. The baud rate had to be lowered to 38400, however, to get reliable communication. Higher transfer rates may be possible by optimizing the XBee internal parameters.

## 4. Circuit Design

The design of the monkeybot circuit was particularly challenging because of the space limitation based on the existing mechanical device. The amount of space that the main circuit board and electrical components could occupy is 2.4" W x 3.6" L x 1.5" H. The previous electrical design of the monkeybot used the first version of the NU32 PIC breakout board, and secondary electrical component board to interface the motor and encoders. In order to add the additional circuitry for the accelerometers and gyro components, we decided early in the design phase to create an integrated circuit board with the PIC included to maximize the amount of room we had to work with. The schematic and board layout for the board designed can be seen in Appendices A&B. Figure 11 below shows the designed board with the PIC32 on it.



Figure 11: PCB with on-board PIC32

The second consideration in the circuit design was to try to isolate the high and low voltage circuitry as much as possible. We decided to create a top layer board which would contain the high voltage motor driver and electromagnet inputs as well as the DC-DC converter. The 5V

output from the converter is connected to the lower logic board which contains all of the sensors and the PIC. This attempt to separate the voltages seemed to protect the circuitry. The one exception that we overlooked was the transistor gates which are tied to both boards and not protected in case the transistor fails. Figure 12 below shows the power management board which mounts on top of the board with the PIC32 on it.



Figure 12: Power management board

The monkeybot hardware provides an opening on the back of the unit, so the backside of the circuit board is accessible without opening the monkeybot case. Therefore, we wanted to exploit this by providing the reset and programming button as well as the power switch and XBEE module on the backside of the logic board. In addition, the LED power and two indicator LEDs are on the back for troubleshooting. The robot can then be controlled and reprogrammed without reopening the case. The backside of the board with the switches and LED's can be seen through the opening in the figure below.



Figure 13: Backside of mounted PCB

## 5. Software

### PIC32

The code on the monkeybot's PIC32 was written in C using the MPLAB IDE compiler. It was separated into three source files and two header files: one header and source file pair is for the decoder chips used (7366R), another header and source file pair is the NU32v2 code which enables UART and serial communication, and the last source file contains the main monkeybot code. The pseudo code in the main monkeybot source file is as follows:

```
Initialize all analog inputs, timers, interrupts, PWM;
Turn electromagnets off;
while(TRUE)
{
    If start command sent
    {
        Turn an electromagnet off to let go;
        Delay;
        Turn motor on;
        Delay;
        Turn motor off;
        Delay;
        Turn same electromagnet on to grab on;
    }
}
ISR to send data to Processing
{
    If not swinging (start==0)
    {
        Calculate orientation of each arm;
        Send orientation of each arm and the current delay times to processing
    }
    Else (swinging, start==1)
    {
        Send all sensor data to processing for plotting;
    }
}
ISR to receive data from Processing
{
    Change states of electromagnets;
    Start swinging motion program (start==1);
    Change delay times;
    Set direction to swing in;
}
```

## Processing

A basic processing GUI was created to allow a user to quickly setup the monkeybot and set open loop timing values. A screenshot of this screen can be seen in Figure 14 below.

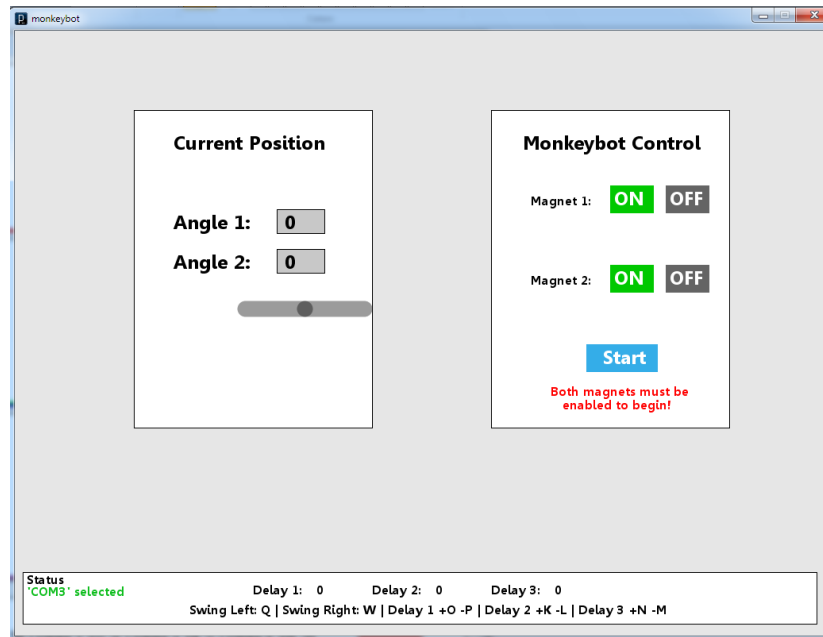


Figure 14: Initial GUI Screen

The GUI also displays a plot of several sensors as the monkeybot program executes. Figure 15 displays this screen.

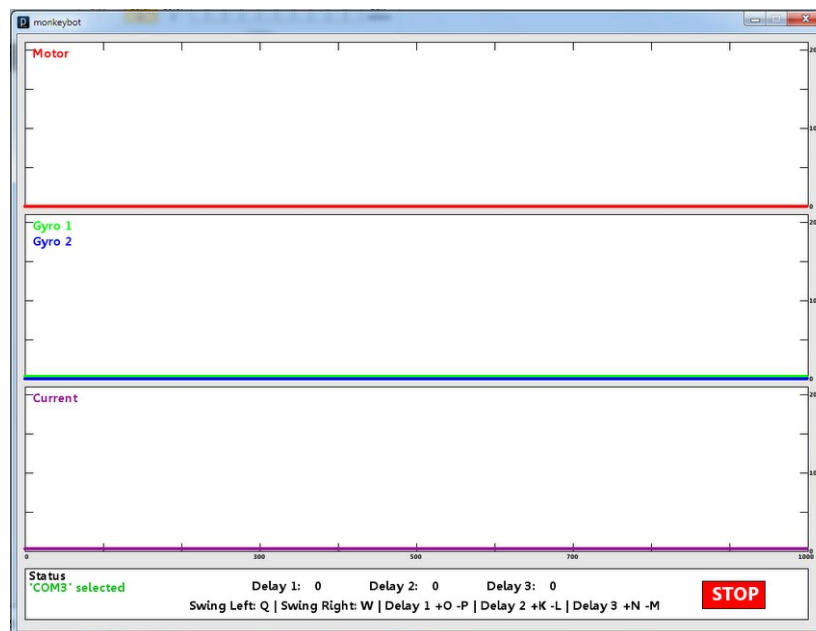


Figure 15: Plotting GUI Screen



## 6. Results

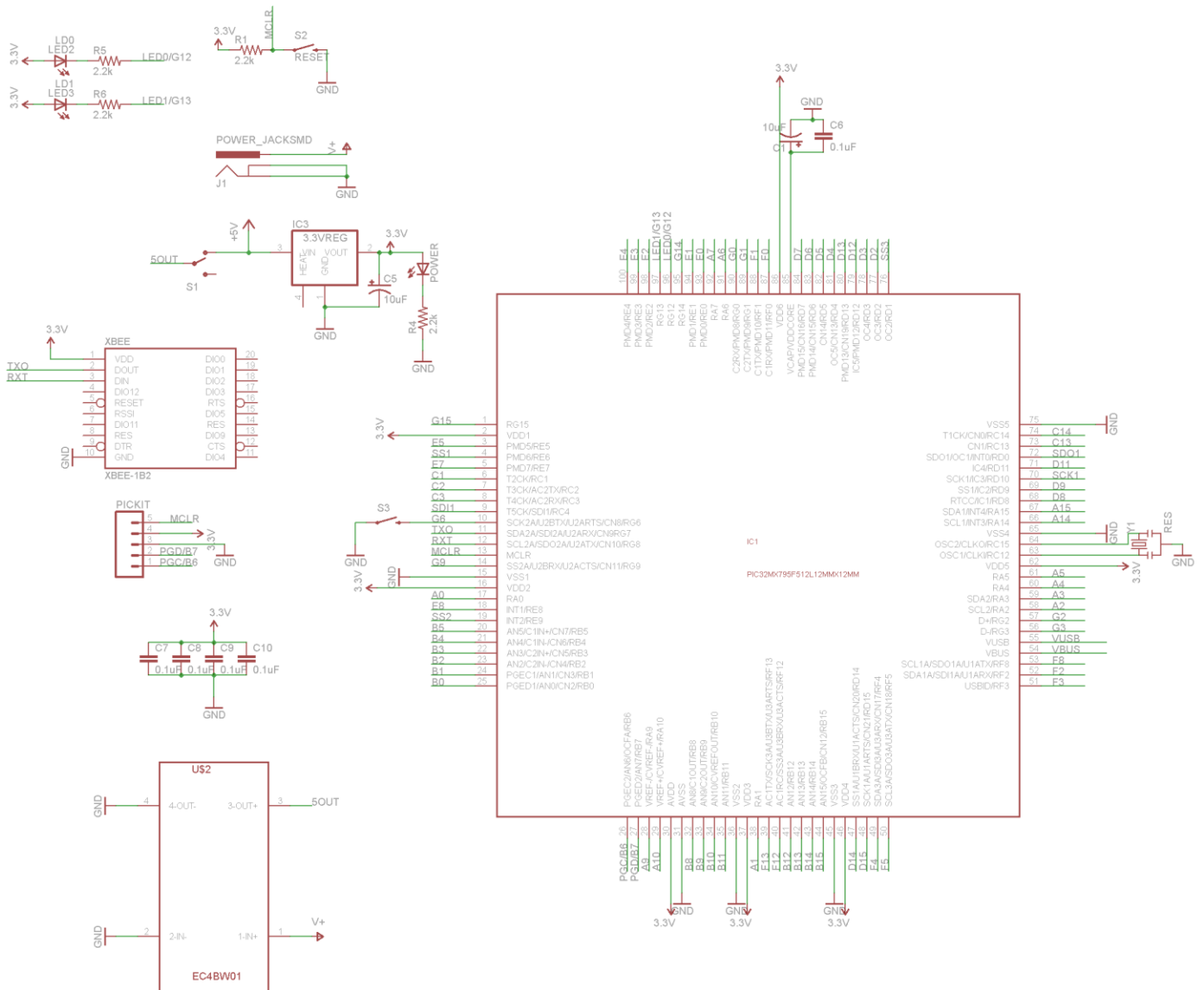
The monkeybot was able to swing on command in whichever direction desired. The delay times for the open loop swinging motion could also be modified to study different swings. Visual feedback of the sensors was also provided by the Processing GUI. This was all enabled with the addition of the XBee wireless communication module and extra sensors. The PIC32 can also be reprogrammed wirelessly.

## 7. Conclusion

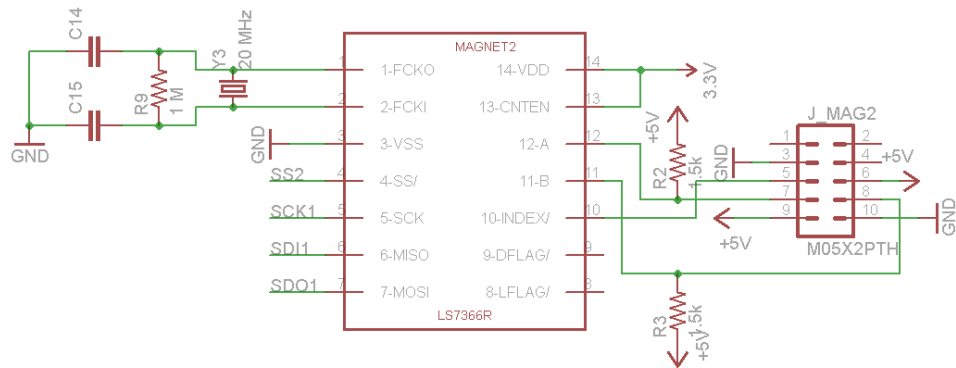
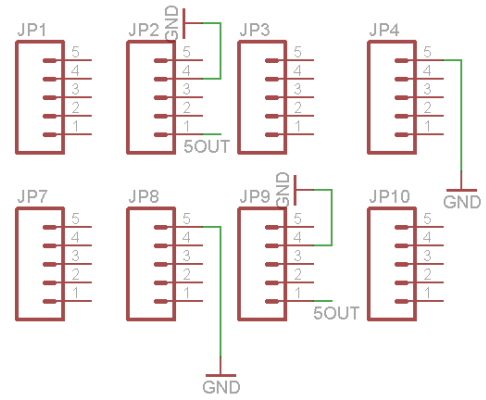
The monkeybot project provided a great means for hands-on electrical design and implementation. The biggest challenge was balancing the small footprint we had to work with and the power requirements of the monkeybot. The DC-DC converter was a great component which gave us reliable logic power. Our biggest problems were implementing the MOSFET transistors and h-bridge driver. The high voltage at some point burnt out each of these components; however, using the larger transistors and the L298N motor driver provided an adequate solution. After testing the monkeybot, there are still many open problems, such as dealing with the large friction on the wall through the swing. The speed of the motor may need to be increased, or a better control feedback algorithm could be developed to create a swing up motion. It appears to be impossible to correctly gauge the trajectory of the monkeybot purely through open loop timing tuning.

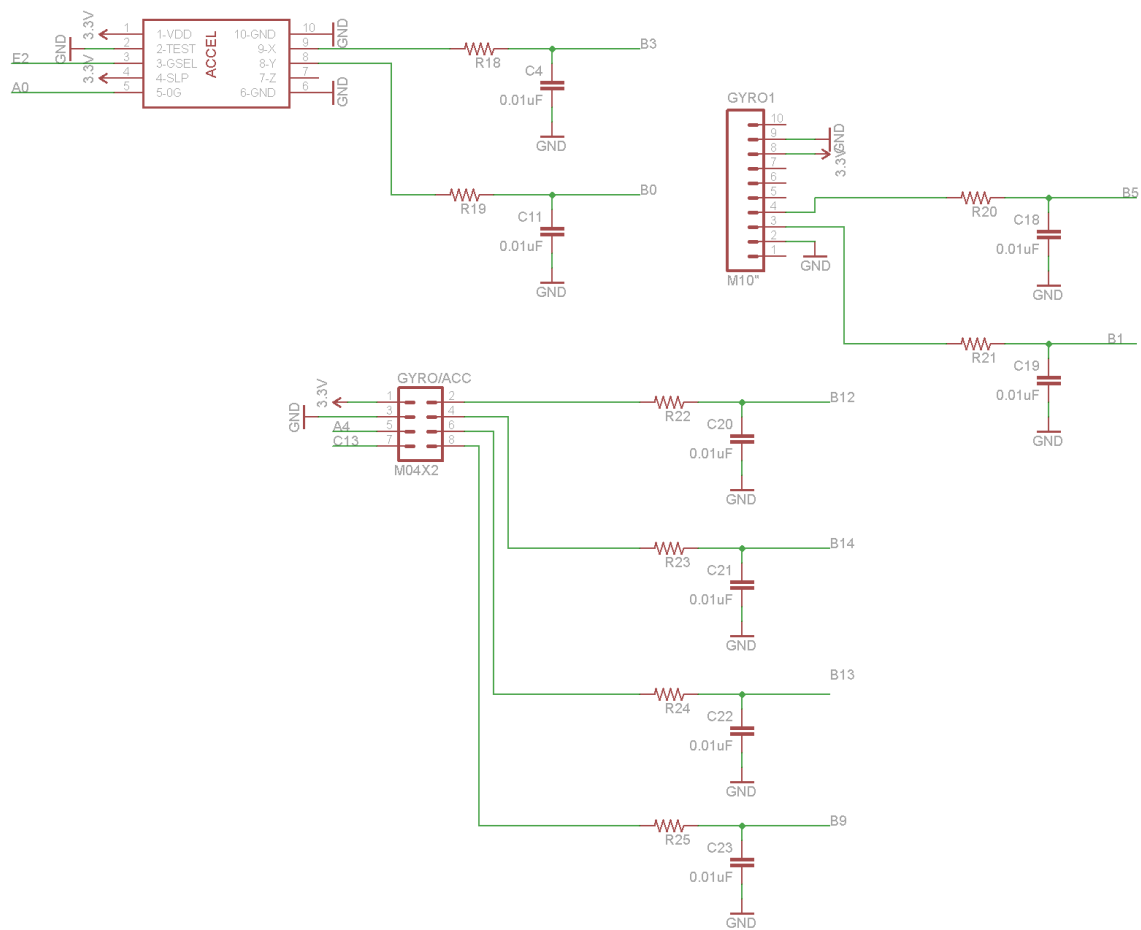
This circuit design and electrical testing of the monkeybot should provide the sensing capabilities necessary to test some basic feedback controllers and hopefully result in a better trajectory and further the research behind the monkeybot.

## Appendix A: Eagle PCB Schematic



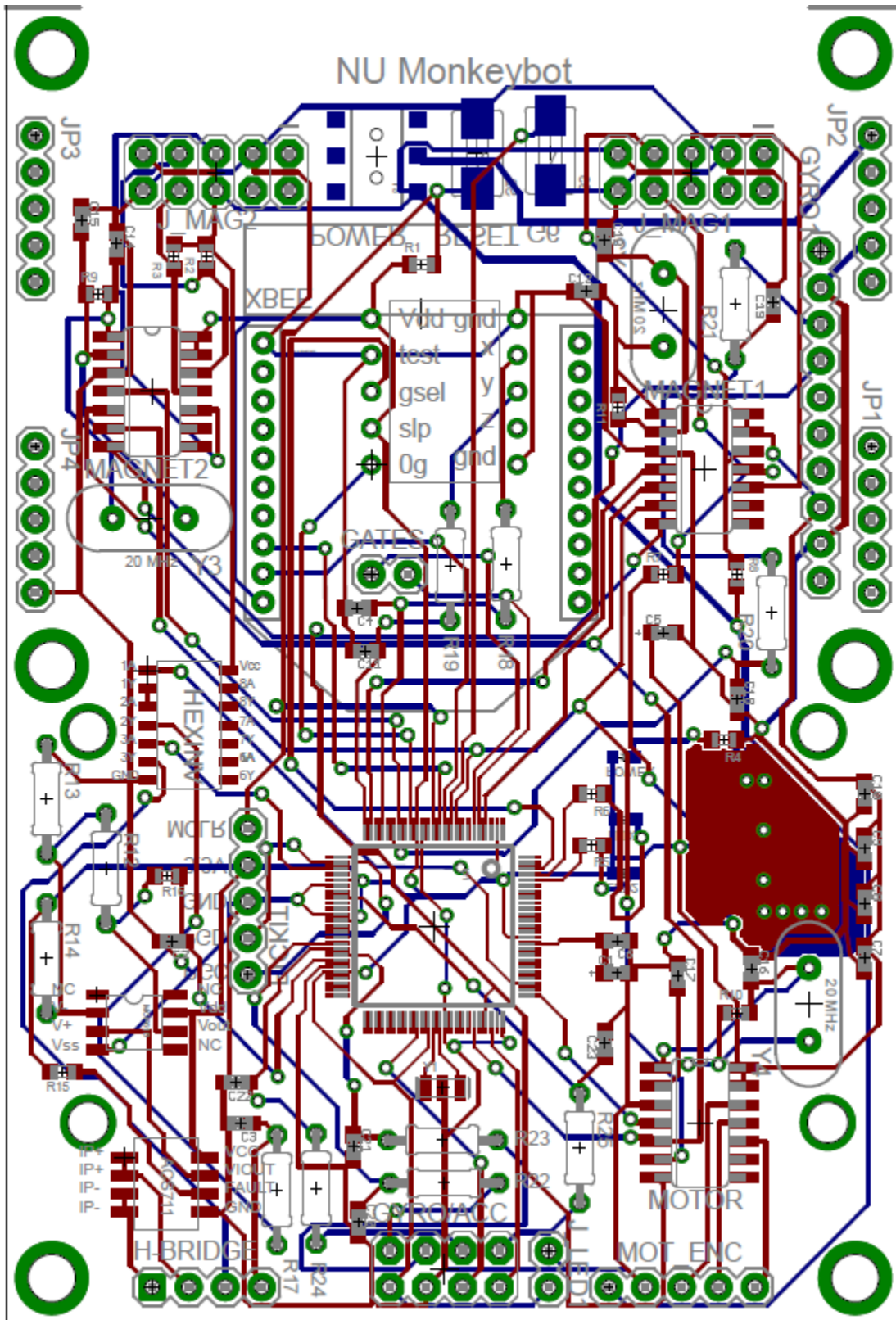


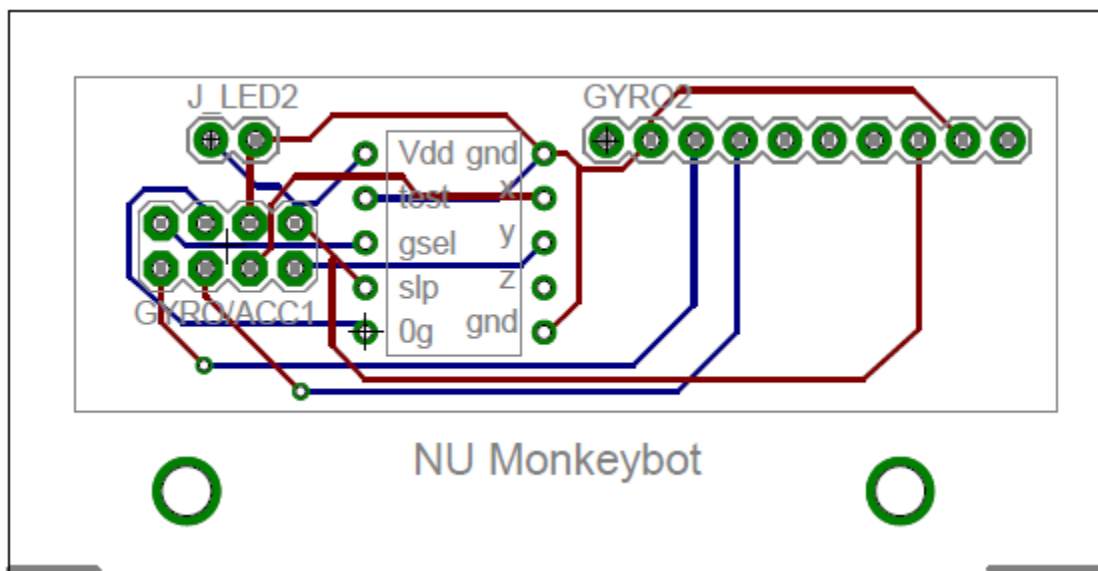
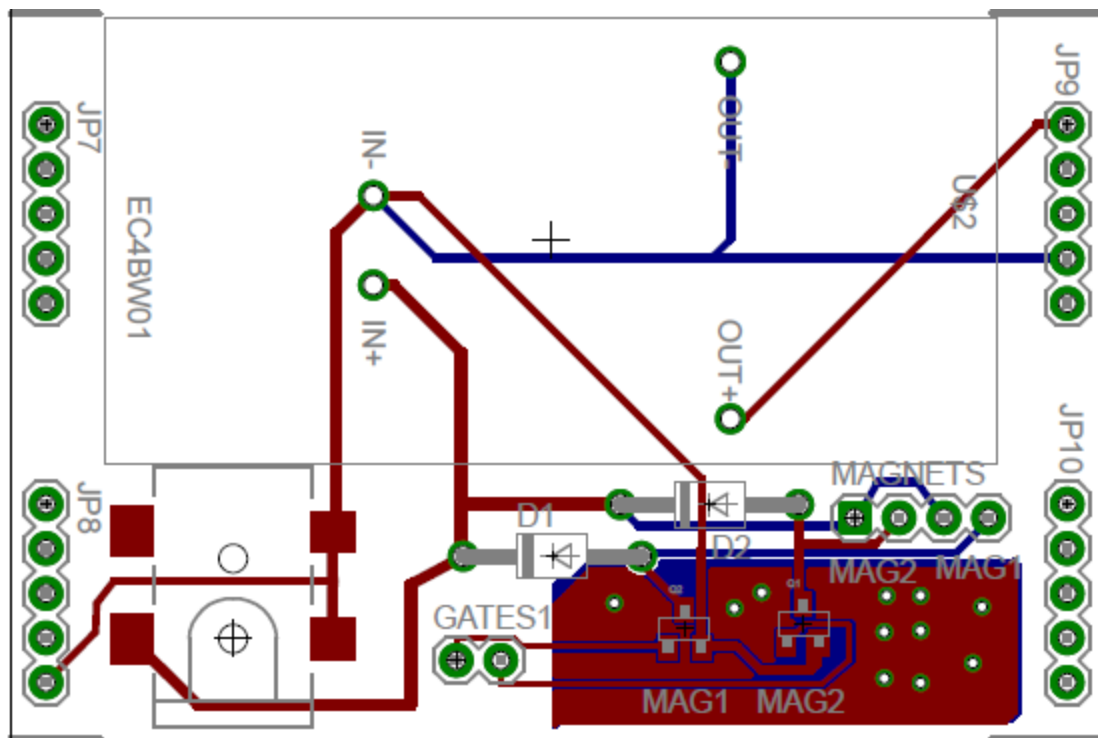






## Appendix B: Circuit Board Layout





## Appendix C: Source Code

```
// Monkeybot code

#include <plib.h>
#include <math.h>
#include "NU32v2.h"
#include "7366.h"

// global variables
int HBridgeDuty;
unsigned char readbuf[COUNTER_BYTES];
int start=0;
int delay1=12;
int delay2=25;
int delay3=7;
int direction=1;

int main(void) {
    timesec=0;
    // set PIC32 to max computing power
    SYSTEMConfig(SYS_FREQ, SYS_CFG_ALL);
    INTConfigureSystem(INT_SYSTEM_CONFIG_MULT_VECTOR);
    INTEnableSystemMultiVectoredInt();
    initLEDs();
    LED0 = 1;
    LED1 = 1;
    initSerialNU32v2();
    setup_counters();

    CloseADC10();
    #define PARAM1 ADC_MODULE_ON | ADC_FORMAT_INTG | ADC_CLK_AUTO |
ADC_AUTO_SAMPLING_ON
    #define PARAM2 ADC_VREF_AVDD_AVSS | ADC_OFFSET_CAL_DISABLE | ADC_SCAN_ON |
ADC_SAMPLES_PER_INT_16 | ADC_ALT_BUF_OFF | ADC_ALT_INPUT_OFF
    #define PARAM3 ADC_CONV_CLK_INTERNAL_RC | ADC_SAMPLE_TIME_31
    #define PARAM4 ENABLE_AN0_ANA | ENABLE_AN1_ANA | ENABLE_AN2_ANA |
ENABLE_AN3_ANA | ENABLE_AN5_ANA | ENABLE_AN15_ANA
    OpenADC10( PARAM1, PARAM2, PARAM3, PARAM4,0);
    EnableADC10();

    // Setup and turn off electromagnets
    EMAG1 = 0; EMAG2 = 0;
    TRISEbits.TRISE7 = 0; TRISCbits.TRISC1 = 0;
    //Direction Output
    DIR = 1;
```

```

TRISAbits.TRISA9 = 0;
//g-select Outputs
GSEL1 = 0; GSEL2 = 0;
TRISEbits.TRISE2 = 0; TRISCbits.TRISC13= 0;
//0g Inputs
TRISAbits.TRISA0 = 1;
TRISAbits.TRISA4 = 1;

// 20kHz PWM signal, duty from 0-1000, pin D3
OpenTimer2(T2_ON | T2_PS_1_4, 1000);
OpenOC4(OC_ON | OC_TIMER2_SRC | OC_PWM_FAULT_PIN_DISABLE, 0, 0);
HBridgeDuty = 0;
SetDCOC4PWM(HBridgeDuty);

// 50Hz ISR
OpenTimer3(T3_ON | T3_PS_1_64, 25000);
mT3SetIntPriority(1);
mT3ClearIntFlag();
mT3IntEnable(1);
    int state=1;
    LED1=!state;
    LED0=!direction;

    while(1) {
        LED1=!state;
        LED0=!direction;
        if(start){
            if(state==1 && direction==1){
                EMAG2=0;
                SetDCOC4PWM(100);
                DIR=1;
                delaysec(delay1);
                SetDCOC4PWM(1000);
                delaysec(delay2);
                SetDCOC4PWM(500);
                delaysec(delay1);
                EMAG2=1;
                SetDCOC4PWM(0);
                state=!state;
            }
            else if(state==0 && direction==1){
                EMAG1=0;
                SetDCOC4PWM(900);
                DIR = 0;
                delaysec(delay1);
                SetDCOC4PWM(0);
                delaysec(delay2);
                SetDCOC4PWM(700);
            }
        }
    }

```

```

        delaysec(delay1);
        SetDCOC4PWM(1000);
        EMAG1=1;
        state=!state;
    }
    else if(state==1 && direction==0){
        EMAG1=0;
        SetDCOC4PWM(100);
        DIR = 1;
        delaysec(delay1);
        SetDCOC4PWM(1000);
        delaysec(delay2);
        SetDCOC4PWM(300);
        delaysec(delay1);
        SetDCOC4PWM(0);
        EMAG1=1;
        state=!state;
    }
    else{
        EMAG2=0;
        SetDCOC4PWM(900);
        DIR = 0;
        delaysec(delay1);
        SetDCOC4PWM(0);
        delaysec(delay2);
        SetDCOC4PWM(700);
        delaysec(delay1);
        SetDCOC4PWM(1000);
        EMAG2=1;
        state=!state;
    }
    start=0;
}
}
}

// timer3 ISR
// Read the encoder, and send over the data desired by printMode
void __ISR( _TIMER_3_VECTOR, ipl1) T3Interrupt( void) {
    timesec++;

    int angle1;
    int angle2;
    int enc1, enc2, enc3;

    if(!start) {

```



```

    angle1 = (int)(atan2(((float)ACC1X-505.0),((float)ACC1Y-530.0))*180.0/3.1416);

    angle2 = (int)(atan2(((float)ACC2X-505.0),((float)ACC2Y-530.0))*180.0/3.1416);

    sprintf(RS232_Out_Buffer,"%i %i %i %i %i %i\r\n",start, angle1, angle2, delay1,delay2, delay3);
    WriteString(UART3, RS232_Out_Buffer);

}

else {

read_7366(MOT, CNTR, readbuf);
    enc1 = (((int)(readbuf[0]))<<8) | ((int)(readbuf[1]));
    enc1 = (int)((float)enc1*1023.0/39000.0);

    sprintf(RS232_Out_Buffer,"%i %i %i %i %i\r\n", start,enc1,GYRO1HI,GYRO2HI,CURRENT);
    WriteString(UART3, RS232_Out_Buffer);

}

// clear interrupt flag and exit
mT3ClearIntFlag();
}

// UART3 interrupt handler, priority level 2
void __ISR(_UART_3_VECTOR, ipl2) IntUart3Handler(void) {
    // Is this an RX interrupt?
    if(INTGetFlag(INT_SOURCE_UART_RX(UART3))){
        char data = UARTGetDataByte(UART3);

        if(data == 'x') {
            //Stop program, both magnets ON
            start = 0;
            EMAG1 = EMAG2 = 1;
        }

        if(data == 'e') {
            // Magnet 1 ON
            EMAG1 = 1;
        }

        if(data == 'f') {
            // Magnet 1 OFF
            EMAG1 = 0;
        }
    }
}

```

```

if(data=='g') {
    // Magnet 2 ON
    EMAG2 = 1;
}

if(data=='h') {
    // Magnet 2 OFF
    EMAG2 = 0;
}

    if(data=='s') {
        // start motion program
        start = 1;
    }
if(data=='o') {
    delay1 = delay1+1;
}
    if(data=='p') {
        delay1 = delay1-1;
    }
    if(data=='k') {
        delay2 = delay2+1;
    }
    if(data=='l') {
        delay2 = delay2-1;
    }
    if(data=='n') {
        delay3 = delay3+1;
    }
    if(data=='m') {
        delay3 = delay3-1;
    }
    if(data=='w') {
        direction=1;
        start=1;

    }
    if(data=='q') {
        direction=0;
        start=1;
    }

// Clear the RX interrupt Flag
INTClearFlag(INT_SOURCE_UART_RX(UART3));
}

```

```
// We don't care about TX interrupt
if(INTGetFlag(INT_SOURCE_UART_TX(UART3))) {
    INTClearFlag(INT_SOURCE_UART_TX(UART3));
}
}
```

## Appendix D: Datasheet Links

Laser Encoders:

[https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=explorer&chrome=true&srcid=0B\\_dSf22opav8MDMzMWEwNDgtNGU2Ni00OWY4LTkzOTMtOTI2ZGMwZDQwMGRj&hl=en](https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=explorer&chrome=true&srcid=0B_dSf22opav8MDMzMWEwNDgtNGU2Ni00OWY4LTkzOTMtOTI2ZGMwZDQwMGRj&hl=en)

Motor:

<http://hades.mech.northwestern.edu/images/5/50/Pittmangearmotor.pdf>

Accelerometers:

[http://www.freescale.com/files/sensors/doc/data\\_sheet/MMA7361L.pdf](http://www.freescale.com/files/sensors/doc/data_sheet/MMA7361L.pdf)

Gyros:

<http://www.pololu.com/catalog/product/1267>

MOSFET:

[http://www.onsemi.com/pub\\_link/Collateral/NTD5865NL-D.PDF](http://www.onsemi.com/pub_link/Collateral/NTD5865NL-D.PDF)

Hex Inverter:

<http://focus.ti.com/lit/ds/symlink/sn7407.pdf>

DC-DC Converter:

[http://www.cincon.com/data/products/dcdc2\\_1/EC4BW.pdf](http://www.cincon.com/data/products/dcdc2_1/EC4BW.pdf)

LS7366R Counter:

[http://www.lsicsi.com/pdfs/Data\\_Sheets/LS7366R.pdf](http://www.lsicsi.com/pdfs/Data_Sheets/LS7366R.pdf)

ACS711 Current Sensor:

[http://www.allegromicro.com/en/Products/Part\\_Numbers/0711/0711.pdf](http://www.allegromicro.com/en/Products/Part_Numbers/0711/0711.pdf)

MCP616 Opamp:

<http://ww1.microchip.com/downloads/en/DeviceDoc/21613c.pdf>

L298N Full-Bridge Driver

<http://www.datasheetcatalog.org/datasheet/SGSThompsonMicroelectronics/mXxwur.pdf>