

The arc-length s formula in degrees is

$$s = \frac{\theta}{360^\circ} \pi d.$$

If the timestep of $\Delta\theta$ (in degrees) is one second, then the formula for RPM is

$$\text{RPM} = \frac{\Delta\theta}{360^\circ} \times 60 = \frac{\Delta\theta}{6}.$$

You can then take the derivative of the arc-length formula with respect to time to give the linear velocity v . Substituting the definition of RPM, you get

$$v = \frac{\text{RPM}}{60} \pi d = \frac{\text{RPM } g_r \pi d}{60},$$

where g_r is the gear ratio.

Next we can include motor dynamics to develop a more robust model of the robot. First we take the definition of voltage (Ohm's Law) as it relates to a motor (the motor also acting as a generator in some sense):

$$V = IR + E_{\text{back}},$$

where V is the applied voltage, I the current, R the winding resistance, and E_{back} the back-electromotive force (EMF).

$$E_{\text{back}} = k_e \omega.$$

We also know that the applied voltage is countered by the back EMF; therefore,

$$\omega_0 = \frac{V}{k_e}.$$

Also, the more current you put in, the more torque is output, hence:

$$\tau = k_t I,$$

with $k_t = k_e$ by Faraday's law. Next we rearrange Ohm's Law to get the no-load current:

$$I_0 = \frac{V}{R}.$$

Substituting into the torque equation gives:

$$\tau = k_t \frac{V}{R}.$$

Returning to the motor voltage equation and substituting E_{back} ,

$$V = I R + k_e \omega.$$

Substitute $I = \tau/k_t$ to obtain:

$$V = \frac{\tau}{k_t} R + k_e \omega.$$

Rearranging,

$$k_e \omega = V - \frac{\tau}{k_t} R.$$

Dividing both sides by k_e :

$$\omega = \frac{V}{k_e} - \frac{\tau R}{k_t k_e}.$$

Noting that $\omega_0 = V/k_e$ and $\tau_0 = k_t I_0 = k_t V/R$, we can write:

$$\omega = \omega_0 - \frac{\tau}{\tau_0} \omega_0 = \omega_0 \left(1 - \frac{\tau}{\tau_0}\right).$$

Now ω is the no-load speed that you can find using the gear ratio's and RPM. $1 - \frac{\tau}{\tau_0}$ is the load factor which can be found where τ is the torque of the wheel and τ_0 is the available torque, from the motor. To find the available torque you can use the gear ratio, radius of the wheel, and stall torque, using this formula (where η is efficiency and is around 80% for a vex motor and gear box)

$$\tau_{\text{avail}} = \tau_0 \cdot g_r \cdot \eta$$

To find the torque on the wheel we can use the definition of force as it relates to friction (where F_f is friction force).

$$\tau_f = F_f \cdot r$$

To find friction force you can use the formula

$$F_{rr} = C_{rr} \cdot N$$

For this feild and robot we will use around 0.01 for C_{rr} .

Finally we can plug in this formula to our formula to find linear velocity and we get the total equation:

$$v = \frac{RPM \cdot g_r \cdot \pi \cdot d}{60} \left(1 - \frac{\tau_0 \cdot g_r \cdot \eta}{C_{rr} \cdot N \cdot r}\right)$$

Now we have to find the acceleration of the drivetrain as we want to compare the speed to get to a certain distance based both on the max speed and average acceleration. In the real world the acceleration looks like a parabola, but we can approximate it to be the average of the value on that parabola. Luckily when you solve the calculus (which I won't do here as it is unnecessary) you find that it's just the stall torque divided by 2. First we can use the definition of Acceleration based on Newton's Second Law, $F = ma$:

$$a = \frac{F_{net}}{m}$$

We can also use the definition of torque and rearrange it to find force:

$$F = \frac{\tau}{r}$$

Now to find the torque we can use the strategy we did before and use the effective torque based on efficiency and the gear ratio, this gives us the following equation for force:

$$F = \frac{\tau_{avg} \cdot g_r \cdot \eta}{r}$$

However we also know $F_{net} = F - F_f$ where F_f is the Friction force which we found previously. This gives us the total equation (where the mass is in kg):

$$F = \frac{\frac{\tau_{avg} \cdot g_r \cdot \eta}{r} - C_{rr} \cdot N}{m}$$