



Scientific Experimentation & Evaluation

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Experiment 01

1.1 Deliverables

Write a report detailing your envisaged experimental setup, expected problems and expected performance. In your report, use terminology from the lecture (i.e. measurement system, measurand, measured quantity, and so forth) to describe your experiment. Your report should cover:

1. The relevant aspects of the design of the robot, especially how you mark the stop position and how you ensure identical start positions.
2. An estimate of the expected precision of the to-be-observed data (i.e. the measurement process), including how you arrived at these estimates and why they are plausible.
3. An estimate of the propagated orientation's uncertainty (including the upper and lower bounds) caused by the errors in the measurement process, using the method of Jacobian error propagation.

1.2 Design of Robot

- Our robot, 'Rosa' is designed based on the base design provided in the **Lego Mindstorms EV3**(evolution 3) kit ([manual](#)). Figure ?? shows our final design, with the measurement facility for the robot intact.
- The following are the materials used for building Rosa and hence represents the **measurement facility**:
 1. Lego EV3 kit
 2. Focusable Laser Module (2 units): It uses a working voltage of 3.0 - 5.0 V. It is powered from the USB port from the EV3 controller.
 3. Bread Board: for making connections between the laser module and the USB port
 4. Jumpers for powering the laser modules
- The robot is three-wheeled with a differential drive configuration. In this configuration (Figure ??, ??), two of the wheels placed in front of the robot on either sides, have independent actuators. The

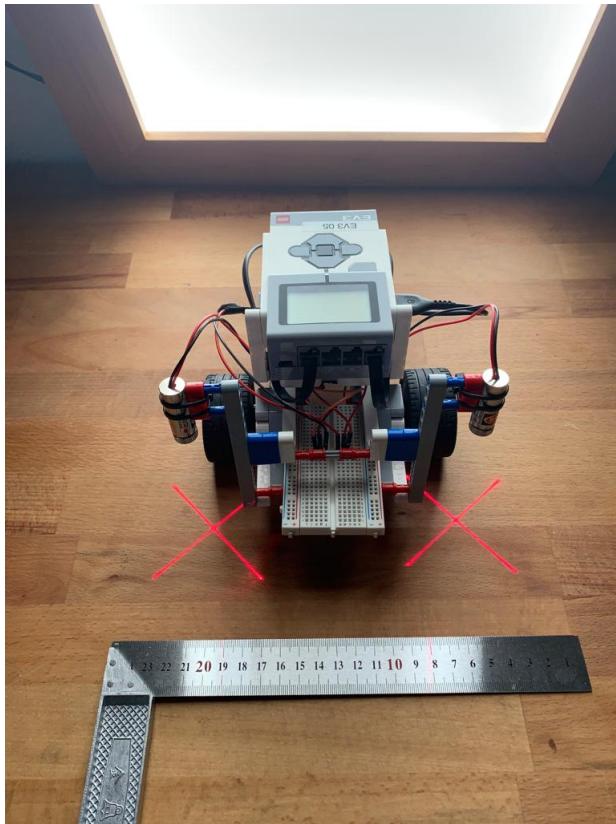


Figure 1.1: Rosa - Front View

last wheel in the back, is a castor wheel which is non-driven placed for increasing the stability of the bot.

- Commands for forward, right and left motions are made from the EV3 controller which is placed on top of the base of the bot.
- The measurements of the bot's motions are made on top a [96.8 × 68 cm](#) sized grid sheet (grid size ≈ 2.5 cm).
- The measurement is done by using two focussable **laser modules** with a resolution of 1mm placed in the front of the robot. [The lasers are mounted onto the lego blocks by using zip ties and tape](#).
- The two cross lasers provide precise marking of the pose of the robot. The aperture is 9.1 cm above ground, and 5.9 cm in front of the main axis. The distance between the two lasers is 14.8 cm.
- Since the lasers are working with 5V we are able to use the robots USB port for power supply, which makes any additional batteries unnecessary. [We use a breadboard for making connections between the laser module and the USB port](#).

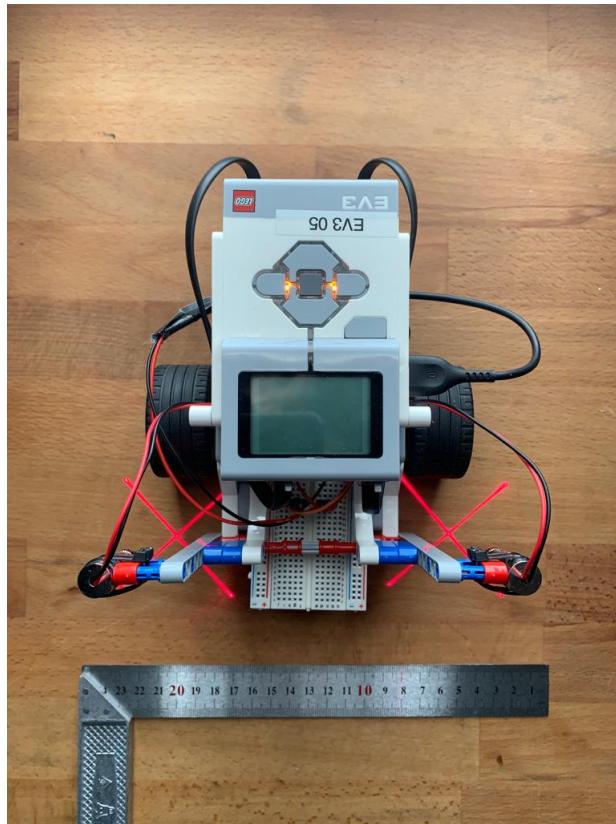


Figure 1.2: Rosa - Top View

- The **pose** of the robot, which is the **device under test (DUT)**, is described by the vector $[x, y, \theta]^T$.
- Here, the **measurand** is $[x, y]^T$ and it represents the **translation** of the robot which is measured in **millimeters**. The angle, θ represents the robot's **orientation** which is the **measurement result** obtained from the measured translation, in **degrees**.
- The Figure ??, ?? represents the distances between the two cross lasers and the center of the robot.
- Further explanations about the measurement facility is provided in section 1.3 Measurement Process
- **Ensuring identical start positions:**
 1. Securing the **96.8 × 68 cm sized** grid sheet to a wooden plank with tape to prevent errors from changes in its position.
 2. Marking the start points with the help of laser crosses of the resolution 1mm.
- **Marking stop positions:**

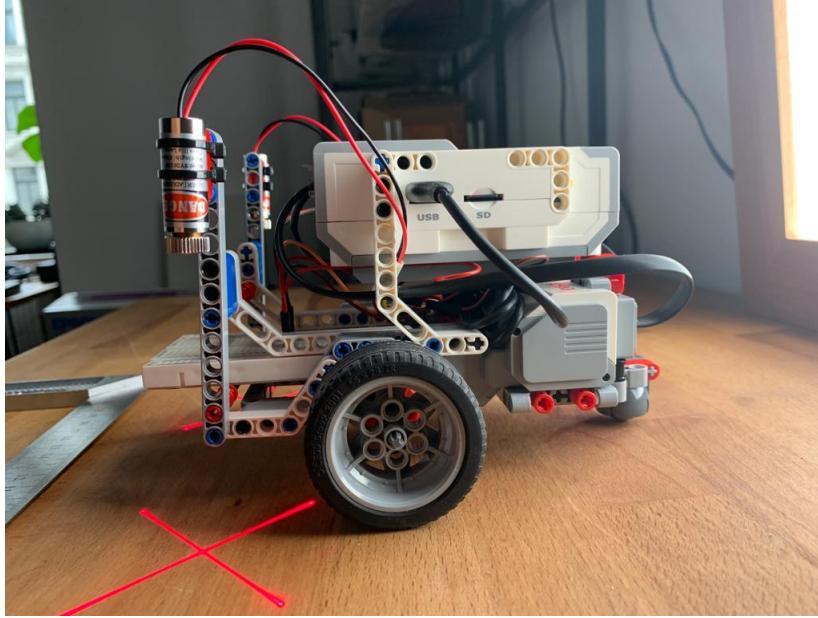


Figure 1.3: Rosa - Side View

1. The stop positions are marked with the help of the laser crosses, rulers and pencils on the grid. The mid point of the laser cross is marked with a pencil and the distance between the starting and end positions are measured using a ruler.

1.3 Measurement Process

- The cross lasers allow us to mark easily positions on the supplied grid paper.
 1. The robot gets put onto the start position. For this we are using the lasers to position the robot exactly on its start position marks. For a faster positioning, we use a wooden plank on the back of the start position for guidance.
 2. We start the robot's program and let it run.
 3. Using a ruler we make small cross marks at both laser positions. Each cross marks get a number for later data survey.
 4. The process (2 and 3) is repeated until enough data is gathered.
 5. Now the cross marks needs to be measured. The mid point of the laser cross is marked with a pencil and the distance between the starting and end positions are measured using a ruler.
 6. Each measurement is made by keeping in reference, the global coordinate system which is positioned at the centre of the axis connecting the wheel base.
- We define the coordinate system of the robot as following:

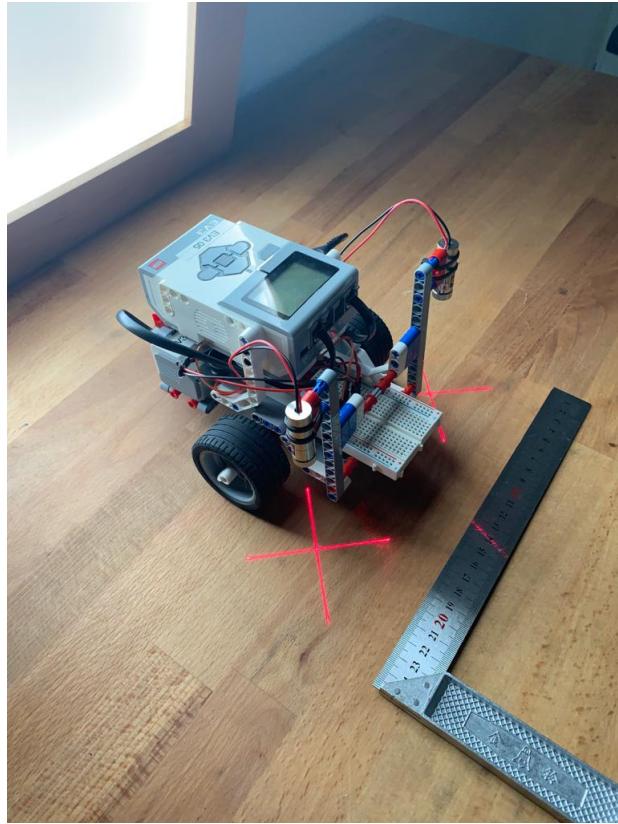


Figure 1.4: Rosa - Another Side View

- The origin of the robot will lie on the mid point of the axial line connecting the wheels as seen on Figure ??
- The start position will always be set by aligning the left laser marker on a pre-marked position on the grid. The global coordinate system will also originate from this point, even when measuring the laser crosses for translation and orientation change.
- The global coordinate system originate at the initial position of the mid point of the axis connecting the robot's wheels(initial position of the robot's origin). Since the magnitude change of x and y (Δx & Δy) will be the approximately same for the two markers and the origin of the robot, to take the distance travelled by the robot origin we take the average change in x and y of the two markers. This distance will also be the x and y values with respect to the global coordinate system. The change in orientation will be found using the direction vector connecting the front and rear markers . See Figure ?? and equation ?? for details.

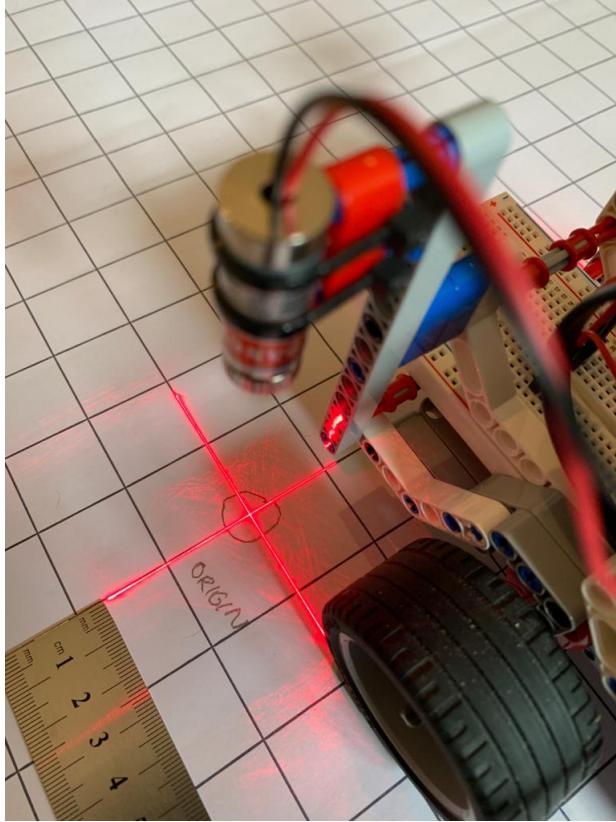


Figure 1.5: Rosa on the grid sheet

1.3.1 Estimate of Error

- The robot's distance measurements will be subjected to many errors. Some of them are listed below along with the rough estimate of their precision:
 1. Error when marking the laser cross **due to the thickness of the laser crosses:** $\pm 2mm$
 2. Parallax error when measuring the laser cross with the ruler **used for our measurements:** $\pm 1mm$
 3. Pressing the button pushes the robot from one position and can put extra weight on one side of the wheel: $\pm 4mm$
 4. Slippage: during multiple runs the laser markers can slightly change position: $\pm 1mm$
 5. If the grid is not held tightly there will be folds and the surface will not be flat: $\pm 1mm$
 6. Jerk: The sudden deceleration of the robot can overshoot the robot past its position specially if the momentum of the controller. This will not be same in every run.: $\pm 2mm$ (**not a measurement error**)

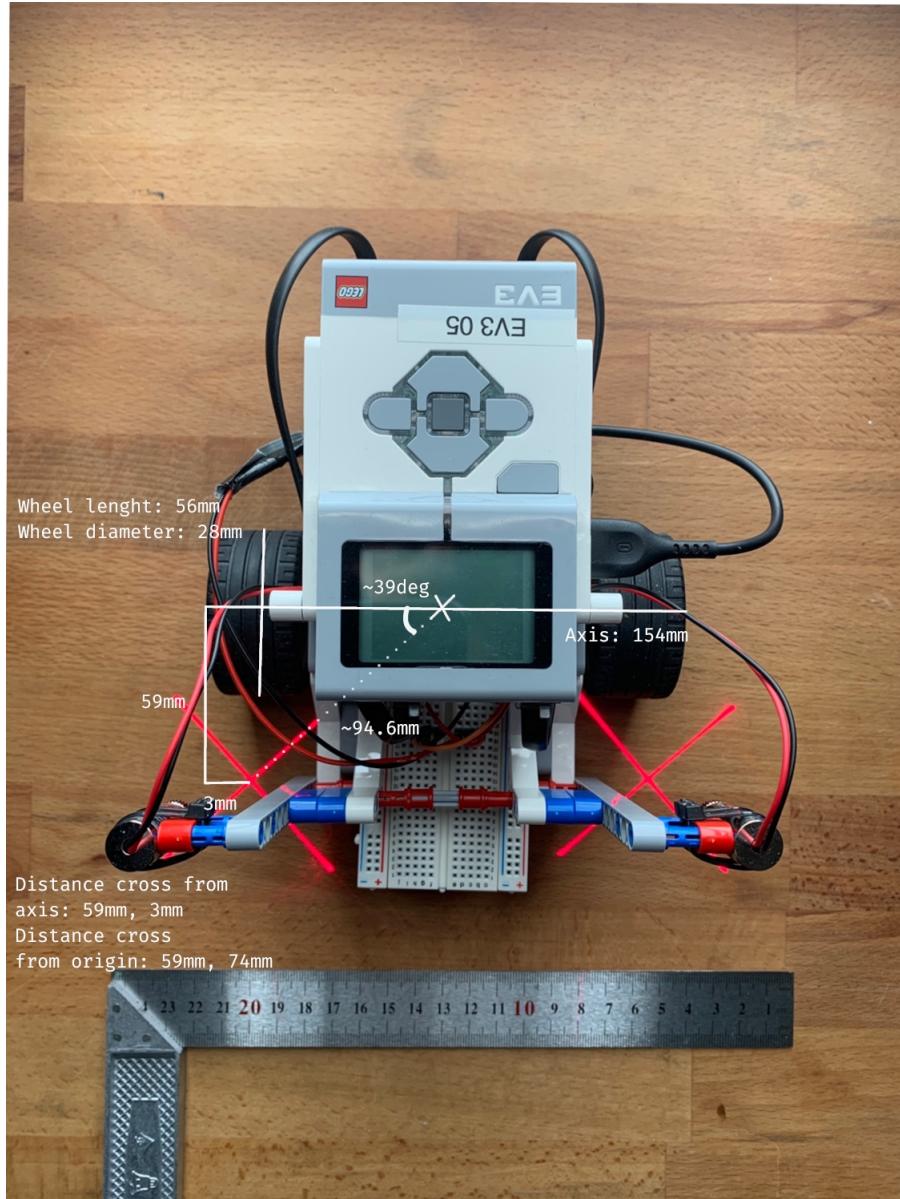


Figure 1.6: Rosa with the measurement facility

1.4 Error Propagation

- The errors mentioned above will propagate when making the distance measurements. This can be easily calculated using a Jacobian.
- Since there are 4 variables namely x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2 (refer Figure ?? for naming convention), the error associated to each of them contribute to the propagated error.

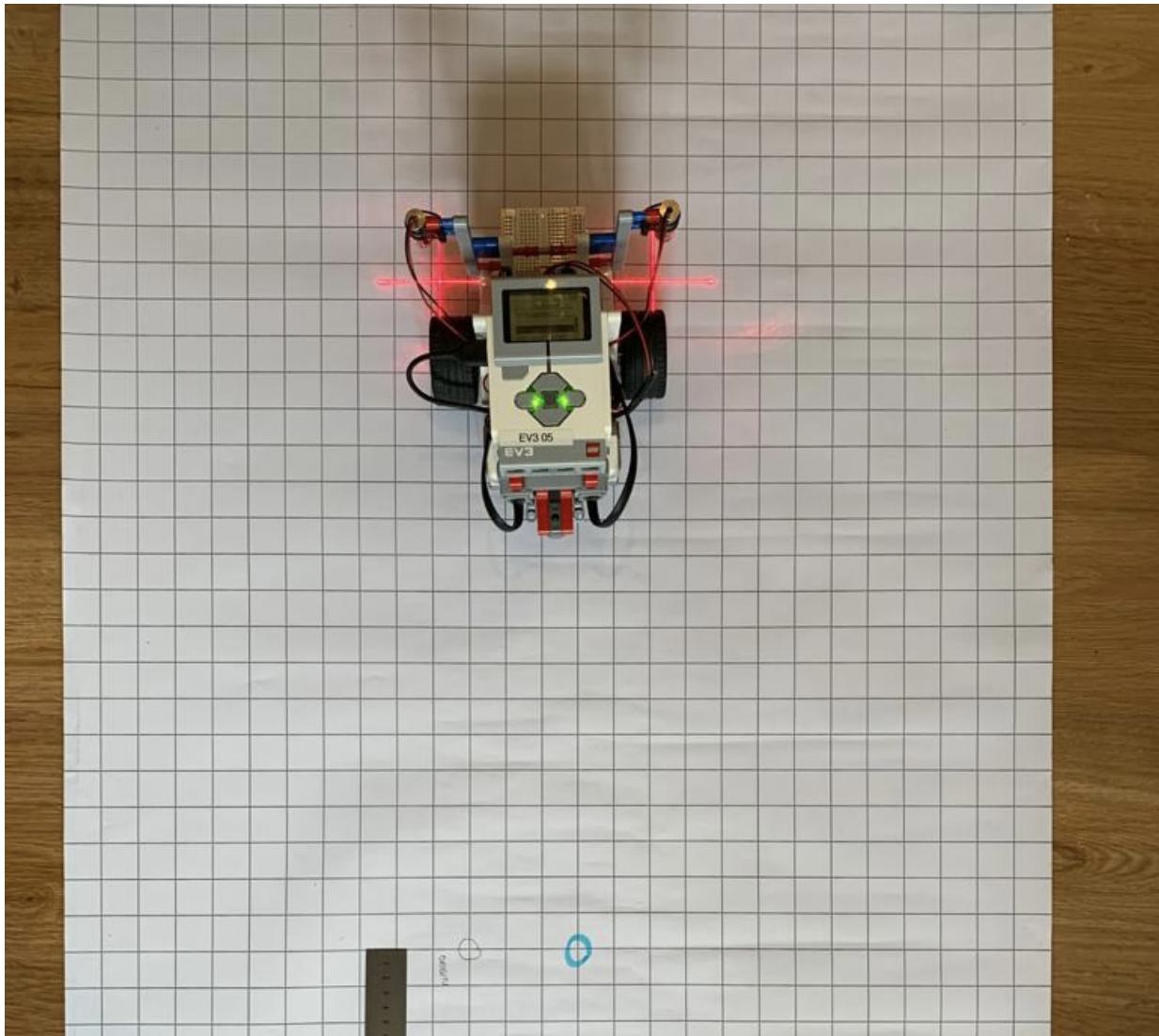


Figure 1.7: Rosa with the measurement facility 2

- The orientation is given by the equation ???. Since in our design the laser pointers are aligned along the x axis instead of the y axis we calculate $\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta$ instead of directly finding θ therefore the orientation finding equation is slightly modified as below:

$$\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta = \arctan2\left(\frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}\right) \quad (1.1)$$

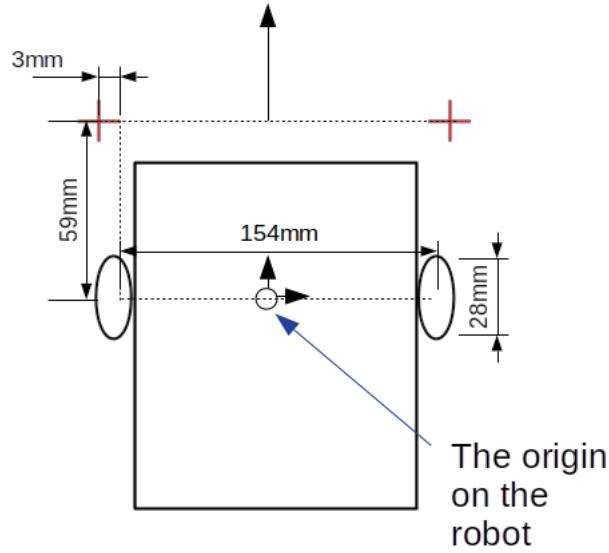


Figure 1.8: Dimensions of the robot

- If the variable matrix is defined as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1.2)$$

- Then the Jacobian will be:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\frac{y_1-y_2}{(-x_1+x_2)^2+(-y_1+y_2)^2} & \frac{y_1-y_2}{(-x_1+x_2)^2+(-y_1+y_2)^2} & -\frac{-x_1+x_2}{(-x_1+x_2)^2+(-y_1+y_2)^2} & \frac{-x_1+x_2}{(-x_1+x_2)^2+(-y_1+y_2)^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

- The upper bound and lower bound of errors were defined according to Figure ?? . The green arrows represent the vector in which direction the error should propagate for it to be the upper or lower bounds of the error.
- The python code given below is used to calculate the propagated error. In order to demonstrate the propagation of error, 5 runs of the straight, left and right motions were carried out.
- Note that for this example we used **only** the parallax error of measuring the laser cross with the ruler, with an estimated error of $\pm 1\text{mm}$. Therefore, the upper bound the error values will be $[0.1, -0.1, -0.1, 0.1]$ (in centimeters) and the lower bound will be $[-0.1, 0.1, 0.1, -0.1]$ (in centimeters);

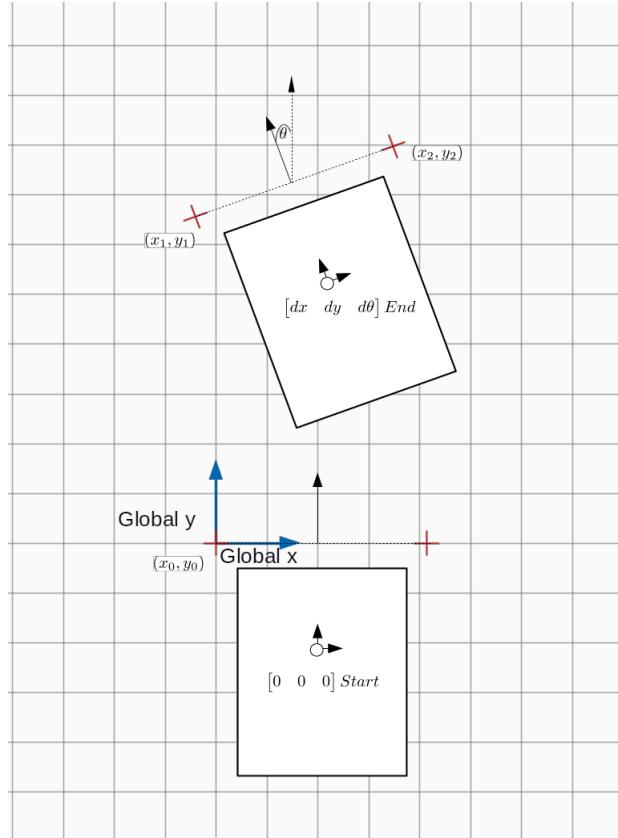


Figure 1.9: Robot orientation

where the variables are in the order of $[dx_1, dx_2, dy_1, dy_2]$.

- Example:
1. For straight motion of measurements in order $[x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2]$ $[1.5 \ 16.3 \ 48.1 \ 47.4]$
 - a. The error upper bound for straight motion is 0.01285 radians
 - b. The error lower bound for straight motion is -0.01285 radians
 2. For left motion of measurements in order $[x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2]$ $[-19.3 \ -11.2 \ 24.6 \ 36.8]$
 - a. The error upper bound for left motion is 0.01893 radians
 - b. The error lower bound for left motion is -0.01893 radians
 3. For right motion of measurements in order $[x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2]$ $[27.4 \ 35.3 \ 37.1 \ 24.5]$
 - a. The error upper bound for right motion is -0.00425 radians
 - b. The error lower bound for right motion is 0.00425 radians

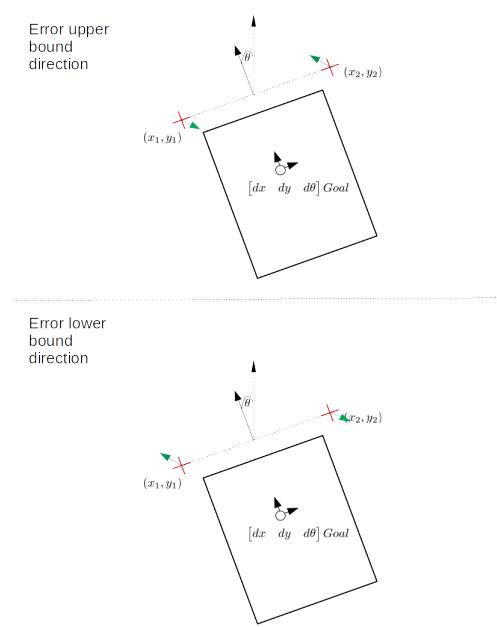


Figure 1.10: Error Bounds

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Experiment 02

2.1 Deliverables

Write a report detailing your execution of the experiment, including all observations made while running the robot. Especially detail and visualize the observed robot end poses and report statistical precision of the observed end poses (combined data). Summarize your findings, does the observed behaviour of the robot matches your expectations? Your report should cover:

1. The program and parameters used to drive the robot
2. Any observation made during the execution that may help one understand the outcome of the experiments (see also next week).
3. The observed data (spread-out of the manually measured end poses) as Excel or LibreOffice Calc files (stored in .csv file format and structured as presented in table 3 (section A.2)). For the data collected by the control script (using the encoders' readings) you can take already generated files from the EV3 brick.
4. Visualization of the i) robot's end poses (combined data from manual measurements), ii) complete robot's paths (combined data from encoder measurements) as well as iii) visual documentation of all aspects of setup and execution you deem important. See figures 10, 11, 12 (section A.1) that show some examples on how the data can be visualized.
5. Three videos showing robot's behaviour during the experiment (one for each type of motion)

2.2 Program & Parameters

2.3 Observations

2.3.1 Before the experiment

- Modifications were made to our initial measurement facility with the help of the pictures for the design of the measurement facility of Group 6. It consisted of 2 pencils attached with tape to hinges

2.3. Observations

made of some lego blocks. After finishing the assembly several points were noted and thus some modifications were needed:

1. It was observed that tape is bad for attaching the pencils because it does not exert sufficient pressure for a straight marking. So instead of tape we used cable ties as seen in Figure ??, ??.

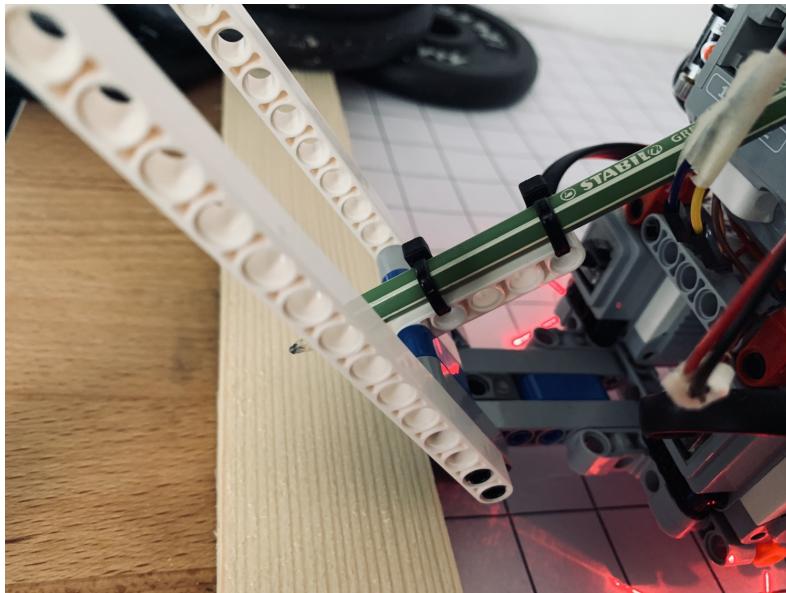


Figure 2.1: Attaching the pencils to Rosa

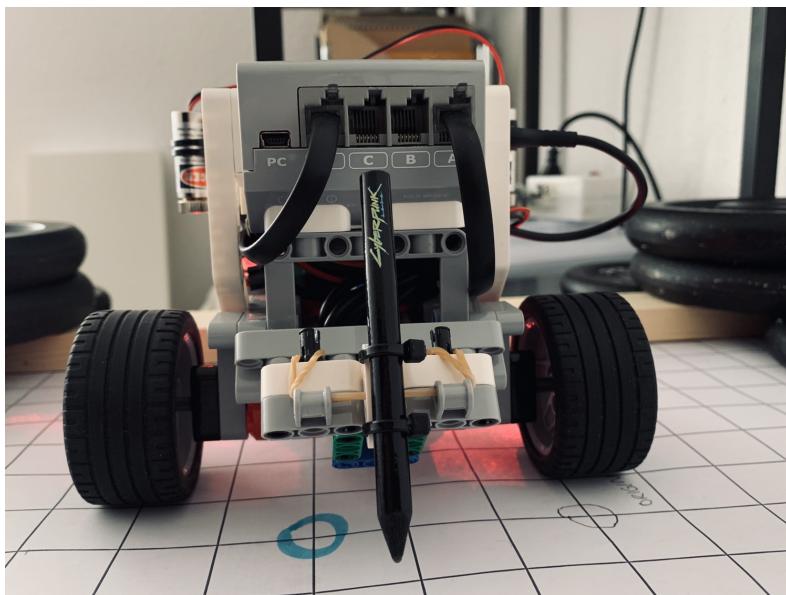


Figure 2.2: Attaching the pencils to Rosa

2. The front hinge was wobbly. During testing it freed itself from the original locking mechanism. This is why we needed to develop a guidance system, which holds the pen in place with an elastic band and guides the pen evenly to the ground during marking as seen in Figure ??.

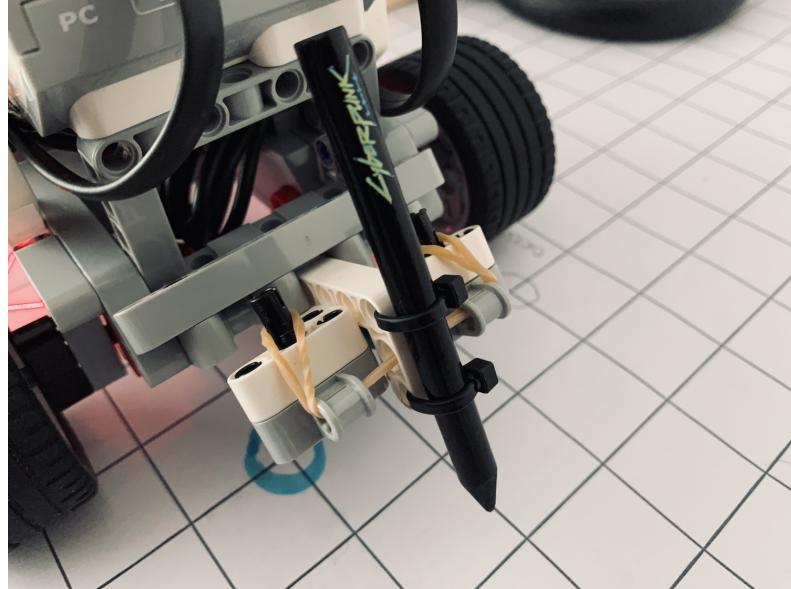


Figure 2.3: Elastic bands for guidance

3. The design did not contain any help for resetting the robot to its start position. Since we did not need the lasers for marking positions any more, we attached them to the side of the robot's main corpus for easy resetting as seen in Figure ??, ?? . Another thing we did, was to use a wooden plank (Figure ??) and some weights for creating a barrier to which we could roll the robot for a coarse positioning and the use the lasers for fast fine positioning.
4. The back hinge hold up fine, but it was a hassle to use the pen. So we attached some rails for easier one hand handling.

2.3.2 During the experiment

1. Marking the positions with this new apparatus was a bit slower than using the lasers. The 2 pens had to be put down carefully. One hand had to hold the robot in position while the other hand pressed down the pen. As seen in Figure ??, this created a small dot and then carefully a small cross was put on the paper next to the experiments index.
2. With the old design we only needed to put the cross on the paper and did not need to touch the robot at all (besides during resetting the robot). This had saved some time and prevented accidentally moving the robot when using our old design.

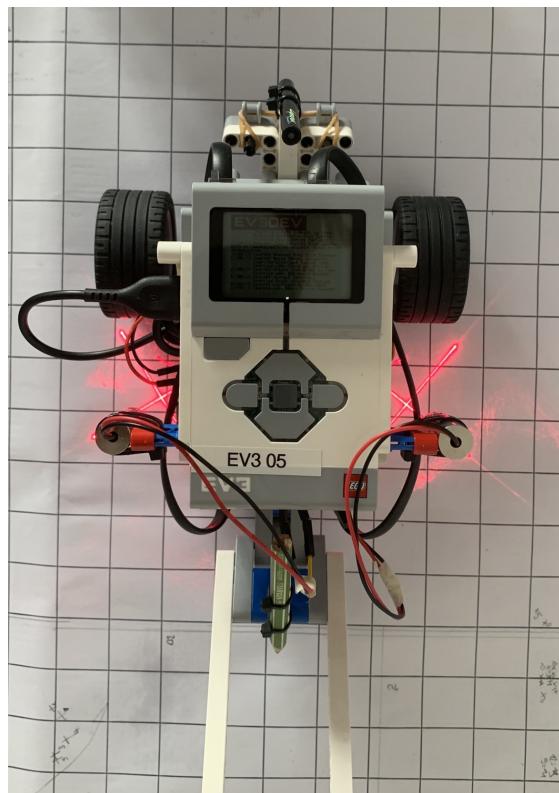


Figure 2.4: Lasers for ease of resetting position

3. For keeping track of the robot's logs easily, we modified the control script to name each run in the following pattern: [up — left right][start_time][robot_path — both_motors].csv
4. After marking all 60 runs, we measured carefully the x and y position of each cross to a precision of 1 mm.

2.3.3 After the experiment

1. The handwritten measures are written down into .csv files for further analyses.

2.4 Data Collected

- Tables ??, ??, ?? show the data collected during the forward, right and left runs respectively.

2.5 Visualisations

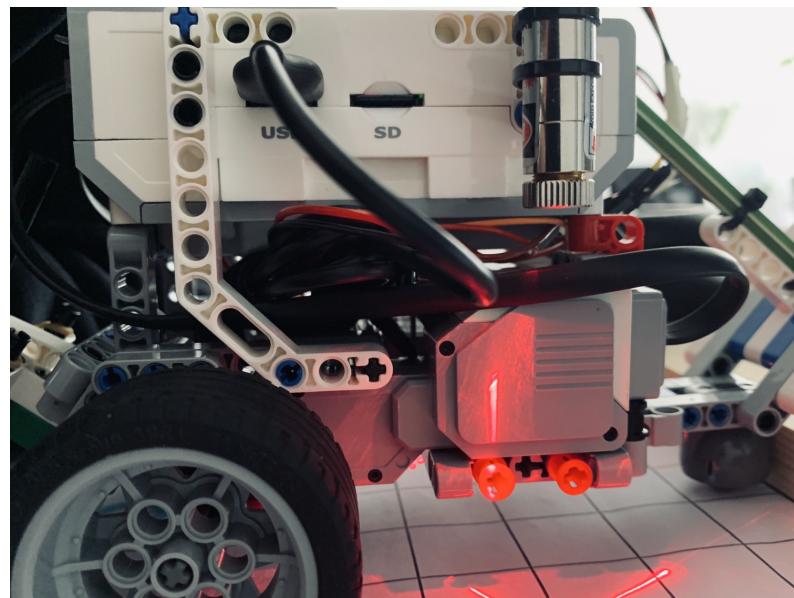


Figure 2.5: Lasers for ease of resetting position

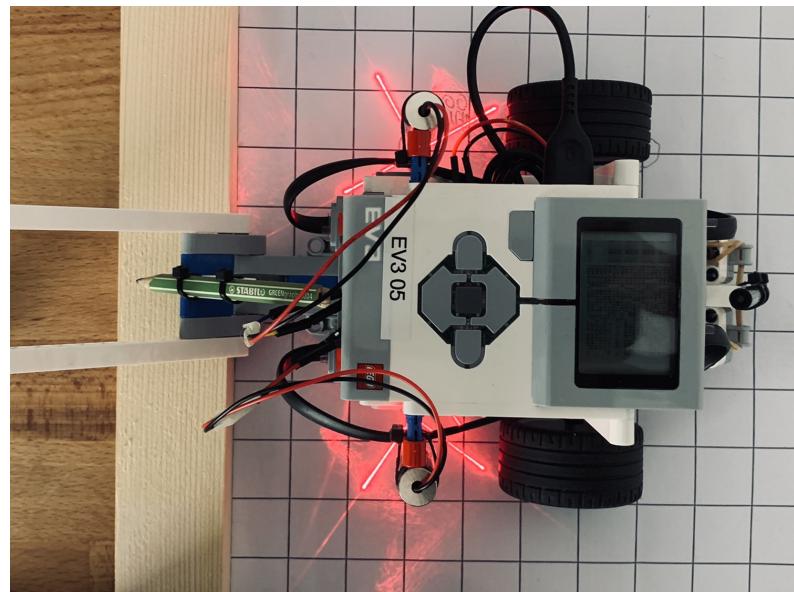


Figure 2.6: Wooden plank for creating a barrier

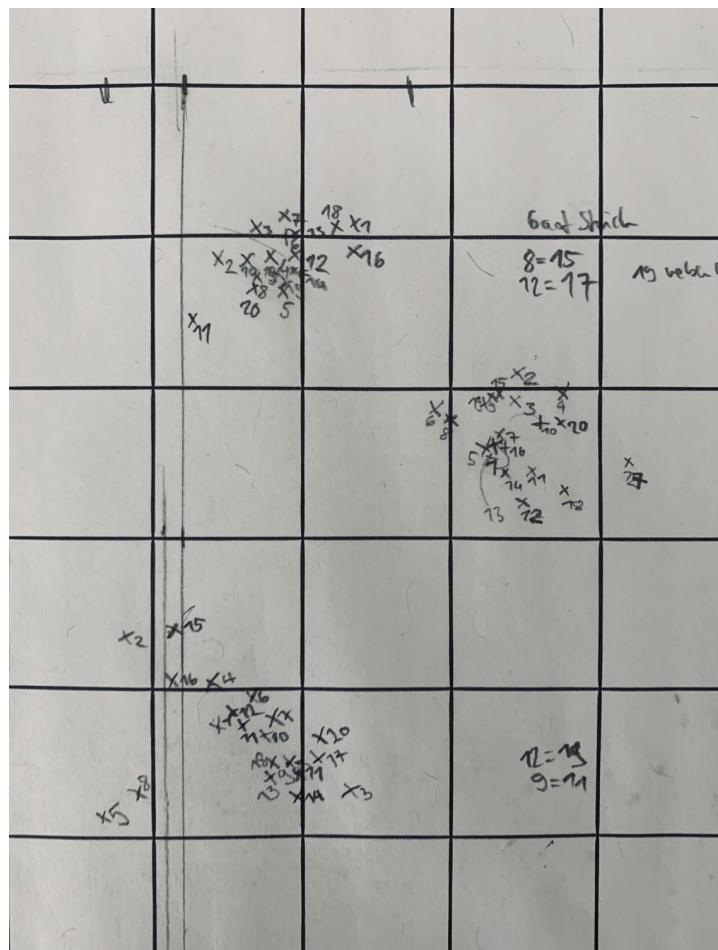


Figure 2.7: Making markings on the grid

	X axis (cm)	Y axis(cm)	Orientation(deg)
1	0.6	45.4	-1.4262
2	-1.25	45.85	1.6707
3	-0.55	45.85	0.7102
4	-0.65	46.55	0.7162
5	0.4	45.3	-0.4755
6	-0.2	44.45	1.9092
7	0.35	45.5	1.1885
8	0.2	44.7	0.9509
9	-0.35	45.35	-0.2368
10	0.05	46.15	-0.7162
11	1.05	46.1	-1.1885
12	1.15	46.8	0.6636
13	0.75	45.45	-0.7102
14	1.05	45.65	-1.1935
15	-0.6	45.7	0.4876
16	0.45	45.65	-0.2368
17	1.4	46.75	-4.0856
18	1.55	46.6	-2.1387
19	-0.55	45.35	0.7102
20	-0.35	46.85	1.2137

Table 2.1: Measurements taken in the forward run

	X axis (cm)	Y axis(cm)	Orientation(deg)
1	15.2	35.3	-57.4371
2	13.25	34.25	-54.4342
3	16.5	36.85	-60.8519
4	14.15	35.45	-55.7763
5	15.95	34.35	-51.2655
6	14.6	35.9	-56.7752
7	15.2	36	-58.7508
8	15.25	35.3	-49.4248
9	16.1	35.8	-58.9125
10	15.4	35.9	-58.5023
11	15.15	35.95	-59.8314
12	14.95	35.35	-58.1726
13	16.35	36	-58.7148
14	16.65	36.1	-60.1063
15	13.2	35.05	-54.4623
16	14.1	34.9	-55.4419
17	16	36.55	-59.6067
18	16	35.85	-59.3646
19	15.05	35.45	-58.0197
20	15.5	36.5	-59.9863

Table 2.2: Measurements taken in the right run

	X axis (cm)	Y axis(cm)	Orientation(deg)
1	-13.05	37.85	54.8291
2	-12.25	35.9	53.2759
3	-12.7	36.45	53.6156
4	-12.25	36.65	53.4711
5	-11.5	37.15	51.87
6	-12.6	36.95	53.2267
7	-13.1	36.8	54.4906
8	-11.7	36.65	51.87
9	-11.5	37.4	51.0725
10	-12.1	36.35	52.9356
11	-10.85	35.95	50.6595
12	-12.25	37.15	52.7885
13	-12.65	37.2	52.8883
14	-11.75	37.45	52.1036
15	-11.8	36.7	51.9776
16	-12.35	38.05	53.7592
17	-12.3	37.35	52.1672
18	-12.75	37.75	53.4711
19	-11.85	37.1	51.8292
20	-12	36.8	51.8292

Table 2.3: Measurements taken in the left run

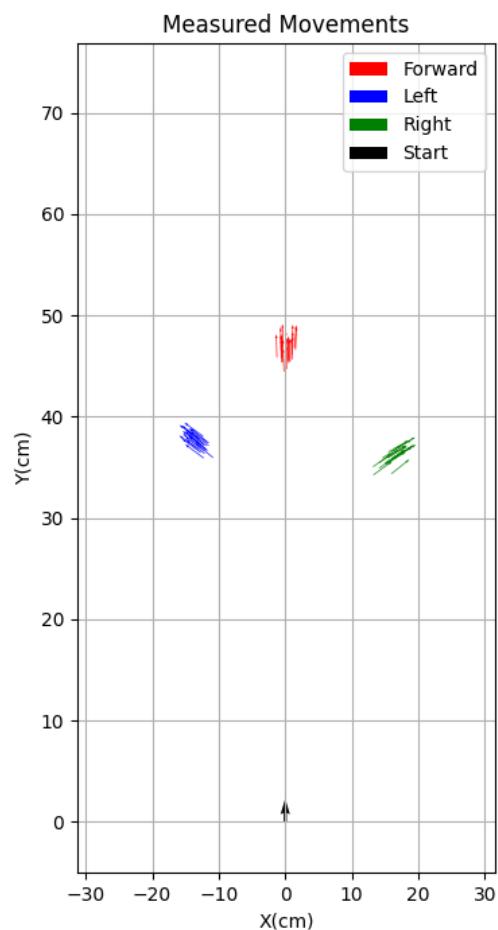


Figure 2.8: Visualising the end poses from the manual measurements

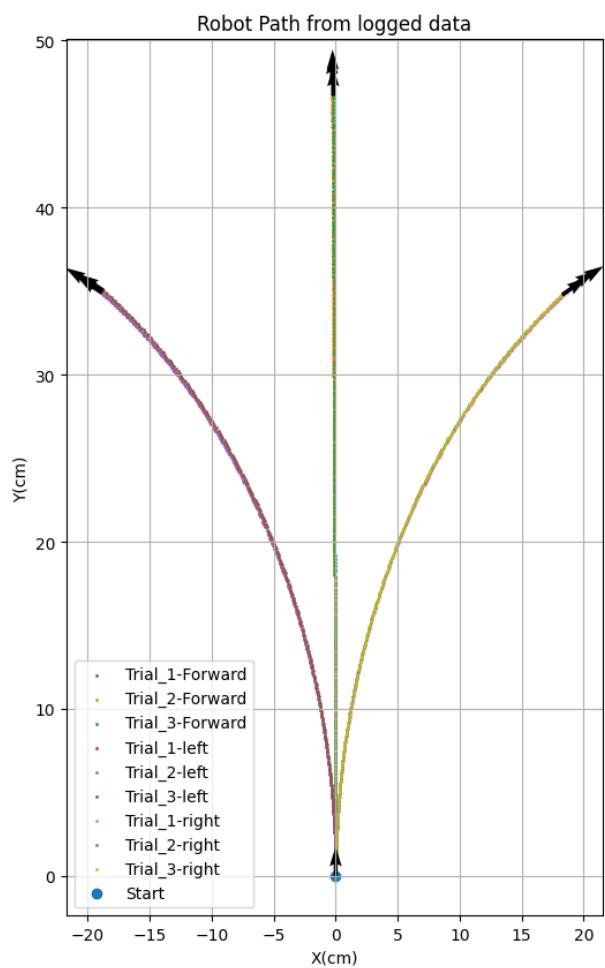


Figure 2.9: Visualising the paths from Encoder Data

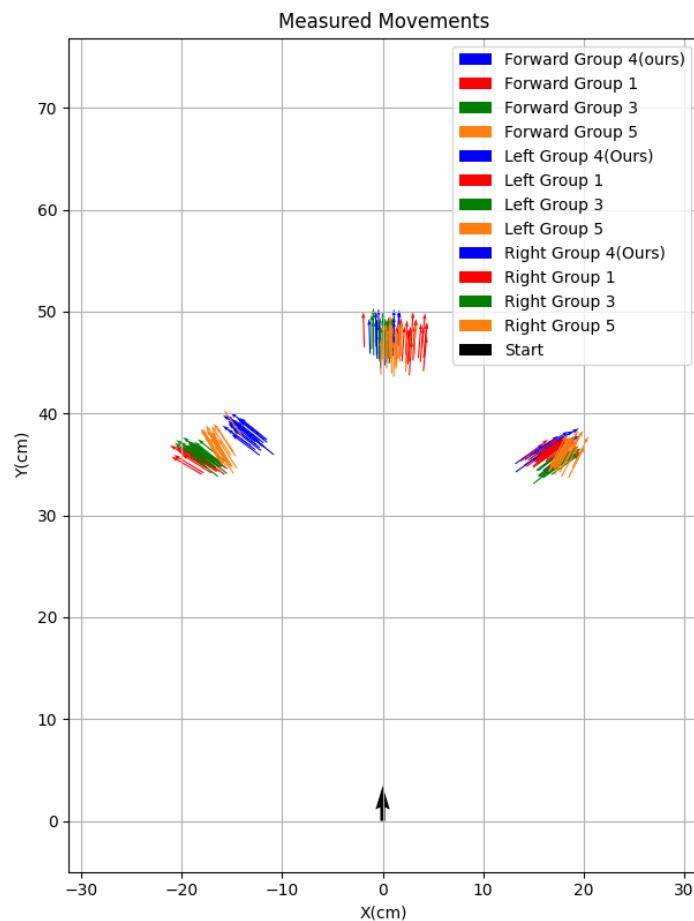


Figure 2.10: Visualising the end poses with manually measured data from all the groups

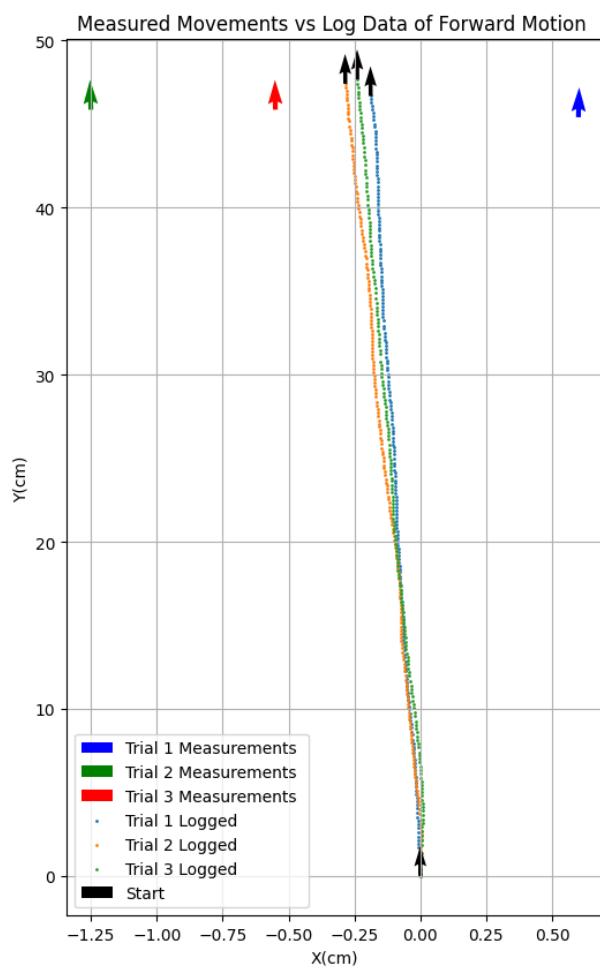


Figure 2.11: Manual Measurement v/s Encoder Data for Forward Run

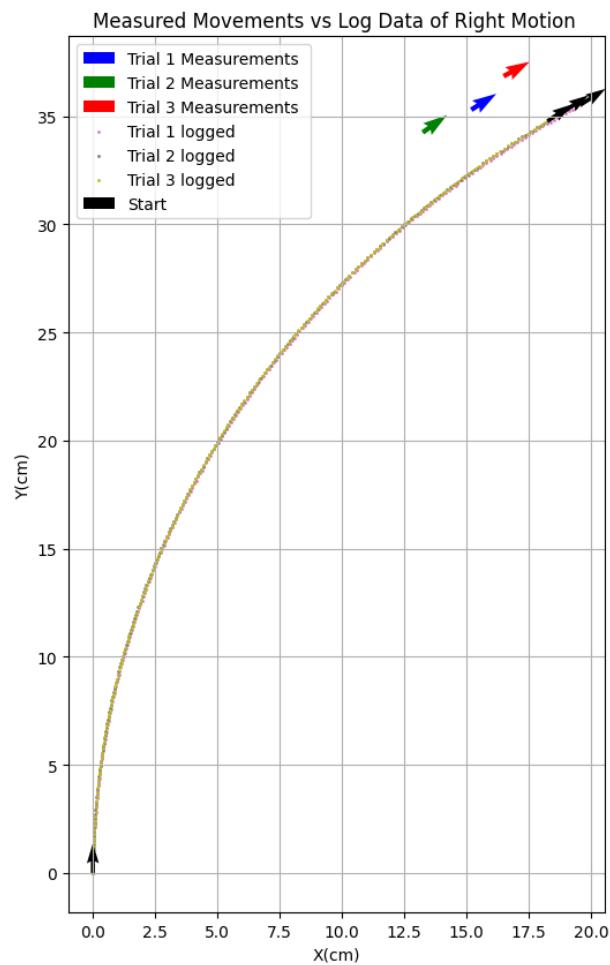


Figure 2.12: Manual Measurement v/s Encoder Data for Right Run

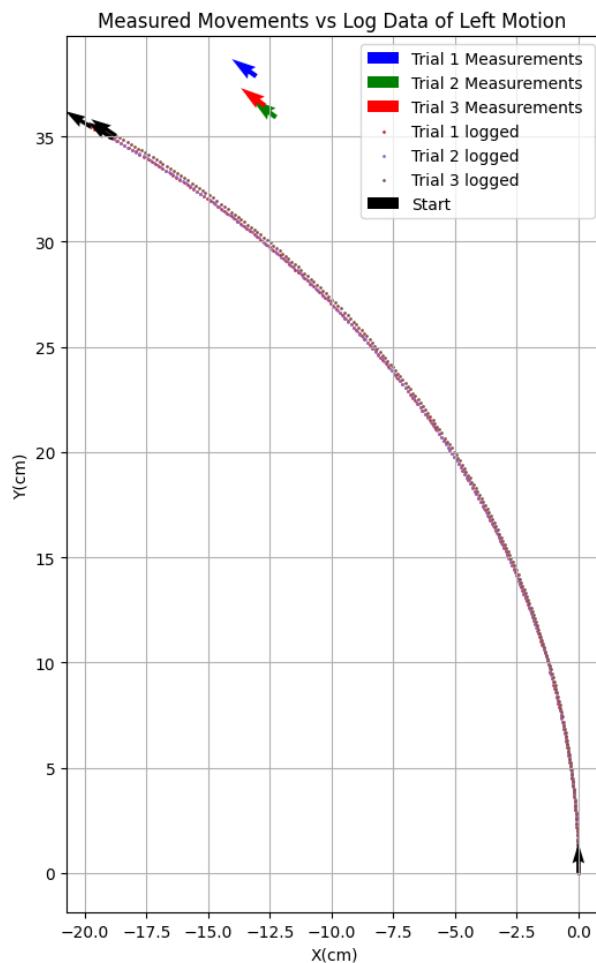


Figure 2.13: Manual Measurement v/s Encoder Data for Left Run

