

Technical Design Report

* Autonomous Robotics Challenge*

1. Introduction

This report presents the design, development, and testing of an autonomous robotic vehicle for the Autonomous Robotics Challenge. The project involves developing a tethered robotic car capable of handling three mission tasks: Autonomous Traffic Management, Automated Delivery Route, and Infrastructure Inspection and Repair. The aim is to simulate real-world smart city challenges by improving traffic safety, optimizing delivery systems, and ensuring infrastructure maintenance.

2.Design Process

The design process was structured in three phases: conceptualization, implementation, and iteration. During conceptualization, each mission task was broken down to understand the key technical requirements, including the use of sensors, actuators, and computer vision algorithms.

2.1. Conceptual Design

Task 1: Autonomous Traffic Management: The robot uses computer vision to detect road signs (Speed Limit, Stop, Yield) via a webcam and responds by controlling the motors and activating a buzzer.

Task 2: Automated Delivery Route: A line-following algorithm ensures the robot follows a predefined black line path on a white surface using line sensors.

Task 3: Infrastructure Inspection and Repair: The robot is equipped with a laser diode to illuminate pre-defined structural targets, simulating a maintenance process.

2.2. Hardware Design

Chassis: A modular platform is used to house the Arduino board, motors, and sensors. It was optimized for weight (under 5 kg) and size (30 cm x 40 cm x 30 cm).

Sensors: tcr5000 3 channel line-following sensor were integrated to guide the robot along the delivery path. For the traffic task.

Actuators: The robot uses a buzzer for signaling (Task 1) and a laser diode for target illumination (Task 3).

2.3. Control Systems

Motor Control: The L298N motor driver board was used to drive the motors, allowing precise control over the robot's movements.

Algorithm Development:

Task 1: a tensorflow model were made from scratch and implemented for real-time road sign detection.

Task 2: a proportional-integral-derivative (PID) control algorithm was developed to ensure smooth navigation of the path.

Task 3: precise motor control was used to align the laser with the targets.

3. Technical Specifications

Dimensions: The robot adhered to competition constraints of 30 cm x 40 cm x 30 cm.

Power Supply: The robot operated using an external power source through a 5-meter tether.

Components Used:

Arduino: Primary microcontroller for coordinating sensor and motor inputs.

Line Sensors: For path-following in Task 2.

Webcam: For computer vision in Task 1.

Laser Diode: For target illumination in Task 3.

Buzzer: For auditory signals in Task 1.

4. Testing and Troubleshooting

Testing was conducted in stages for each task:

Task 1 (Traffic Management): The vision system was tested under different lighting conditions to ensure reliable sign detection. Adjustments were made to improve detection speed and accuracy.

Task 2 (Delivery Route): Path-following was tested using different route configurations. The PID controller was tuned to minimize deviations and reduce oscillation.

Task 3 (Inspection and Repair): The laser system was tested for accuracy in hitting the designated targets, with adjustments made for precision alignment.

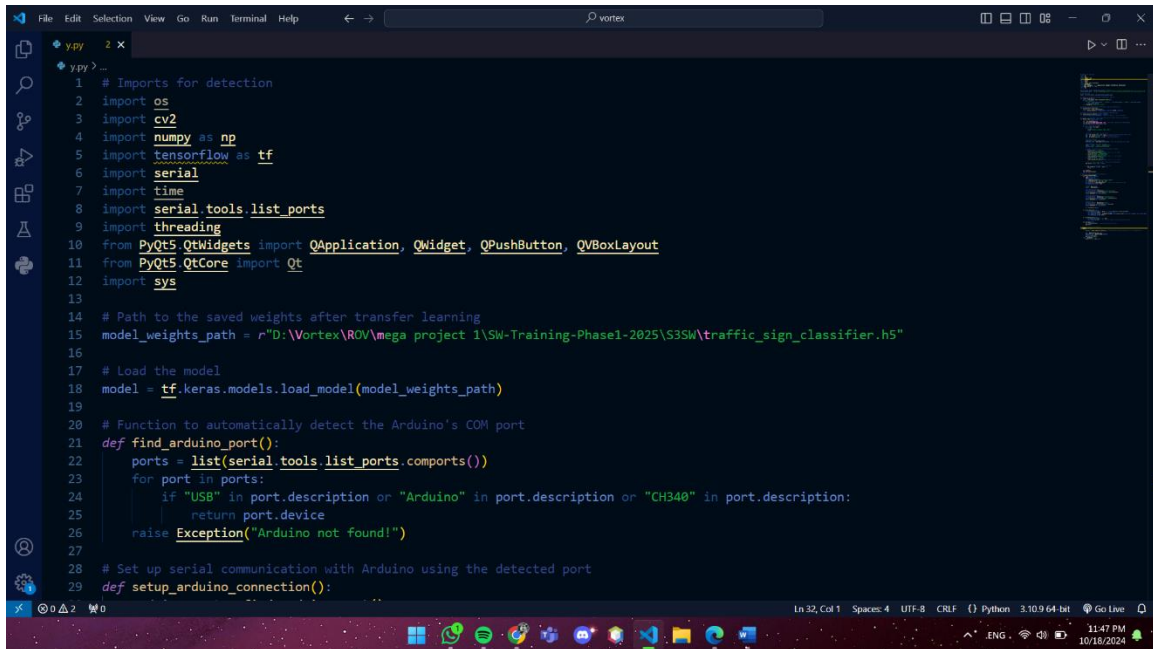
5.tasks code overview:

Task1:

```
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taskino
14 int slowSpeedValue; // Speed for 30 Speed Limit sign
15
16 // Setup function to initialize pins and serial communication
17 void setup() {
18   // Set motor control pins as outputs
19   pinMode(IN1, OUTPUT);
20   pinMode(IN2, OUTPUT);
21   pinMode(IN3, OUTPUT);
22   pinMode(IN4, OUTPUT);
23
24   // Set enable (Pwm) pins as outputs
25   pinMode(EnPin1, OUTPUT);
26   pinMode(EnPin2, OUTPUT);
27
28   // Set buzzer pin as output
29   pinMode(buzzerPin, OUTPUT);
30
31   // Set initial motor speed (Pwm values)
32   analogWrite(EnPin1, speedValue); // Right motor initial speed
33   analogWrite(EnPin2, speedValue); // Left motor initial speed
34
35   // Start serial communication
36   Serial.begin(9600);
37
38   // Set slow speed to 30% of maximum speed
39   slowSpeedValue = speedValue * 0.3;
40 }
41
42 // Main loop to control motors and buzzer based on detected signs
43 void loop() {
44   // Always move forward by default
45   moveForward();
46 }
```

```
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taskino
47
48 // Check if there is any data available on the serial port
49 if (Serial.available()) {
50   // Read the incoming command
51   char command = Serial.read();
52
53   // Perform action based on the received command
54   switch (command) {
55     case 's': // Stop motors
56       stopAndMoveBackward();
57       break;
58
59     case 'u': // Turn buzzer on
60       digitalWrite(buzzerPin, HIGH); // Buzzer on
61       break;
62
63     case 'p': // Turn buzzer off
64       digitalWrite(buzzerPin, LOW); // Buzzer off
65       break;
66
67     case 'r': // Yield sign detected
68       digitalWrite(buzzerPin, HIGH); // Buzzer on for Yield
69       // Logic to yield or pause can be added here
70       break;
71
72     case 'o': // Stop sign detected
73       digitalWrite(buzzerPin, HIGH); // Buzzer on for Stop
74       stopAndMoveBackward();
75       break;
76
77     case 't': // 30 Speed Limit sign detected
78       analogWrite(EnPin1, slowSpeedValue); // Set right motor to slow speed
79       analogWrite(EnPin2, slowSpeedValue); // Set left motor to slow speed
80       break;
81   }
82 }
```

```
File Edit Sketch Tools Help
taskino
89 void moveForward() {
90   digitalWrite(IN1, HIGH); // Right motor forward
91   digitalWrite(IN2, LOW);
92   digitalWrite(IN3, HIGH); // Left motor forward
93   digitalWrite(IN4, LOW);
94   analogWrite(EnPin1, speedValue); // Set right motor speed
95   analogWrite(EnPin2, speedValue); // Set left motor speed
96 }
97
98 // Function to stop motors and move backward for 1 second
99 void stopAndMoveBackward() {
100   stopMotors(); // Stop the motors
101   delay(1000); // Wait for 1 second
102
103   // Move backward
104   digitalWrite(IN1, LOW); // Right motor backward
105   digitalWrite(IN2, HIGH);
106   digitalWrite(IN3, LOW); // Left motor backward
107   digitalWrite(IN4, HIGH);
108   analogWrite(EnPin1, speedValue); // Set right motor speed
109   analogWrite(EnPin2, speedValue); // Set left motor speed
110   delay(1000); // Move backward for 1 second
111
112   // Stop the motors again after moving backward
113   stopMotors();
114 }
115
116 // Function to stop motors
117 void stopMotors() {
118   digitalWrite(IN1, LOW);
119   digitalWrite(IN2, LOW);
120   digitalWrite(IN3, LOW);
121   digitalWrite(IN4, LOW);
122 }
```



```
1 # Imports for detection
2 import os
3 import cv2
4 import numpy as np
5 import tensorflow as tf
6 import serial
7 import time
8 import serial.tools.list_ports
9 import threading
10 from PyQt5.QtWidgets import QApplication, QWidget, QPushButton, QVBoxLayout
11 from PyQt5.QtCore import Qt
12 import sys
13
14 # Path to the saved weights after transfer learning
15 model_weights_path = r"D:\Vortex\ROV\mega project 1\SW-Training-Phase1-2025\S3SW\traffic_sign_classifier.h5"
16
17 # Load the model
18 model = tf.keras.models.load_model(model_weights_path)
19
20 # Function to automatically detect the Arduino's COM port
21 def find_arduino_port():
22     ports = list(serial.tools.list_ports.comports())
23     for port in ports:
24         if "USB" in port.description or "Arduino" in port.description or "CH340" in port.description:
25             return port.device
26     raise Exception("Arduino not found!")
27
28 # Set up serial communication with Arduino using the detected port
29 def setup_arduino_connection():
```

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Task2:

task.ino

```
1  #define IN_leftA 2
2  #define IN_leftB 8
3  #define IN_rightA 12
4  #define IN_rightB 13
5
6  #define RightMotor 9
7  #define LeftMotor 10
8
9  #define LeftSensor A2
10 #define RightSensor A0
11 #define MiddleSensor A1
12
13 int left_sensor_read, right_sensor_read, middle_sensor_read;
14 int prev_left_sensor_read, prev_right_sensor_read, prev_middle_sensor_read;
15
16 void setup() {
17     pinMode(IN_leftA, OUTPUT);
18     pinMode(IN_leftB, OUTPUT);
19     pinMode(IN_rightA, OUTPUT);
20     pinMode(IN_rightB, OUTPUT);
21
22     pinMode(RightMotor, OUTPUT);
23     pinMode(LeftMotor, OUTPUT);
24
25     pinMode(LeftSensor, INPUT);
26     pinMode(RightSensor, INPUT);
27     pinMode(MiddleSensor, INPUT);
28
29     Serial.begin(9600);
30 }
```

task.ino

```
31
32 void loop() {
33     // Store previous sensor readings for recovery purposes
34     prev_left_sensor_read = left_sensor_read;
35     prev_right_sensor_read = right_sensor_read;
36     prev_middle_sensor_read = middle_sensor_read;
37
38     // Read current sensor values
39     left_sensor_read = digitalRead(LeftSensor);
40     right_sensor_read = digitalRead(RightSensor);
41     middle_sensor_read = digitalRead(MiddleSensor);
42
43     int speed = 50;      // Default motor speed
44     int turn_speed = 30; // Slower speed when turning
45
46     // Forward movement when the middle sensor detects the line
47     if (middle_sensor_read == HIGH && left_sensor_read == LOW && right_sensor_read == LOW) {
48         digitalWrite(IN_leftA, HIGH);
49         digitalWrite(IN_leftB, LOW);
50         analogWrite(LeftMotor, speed);
51
52         digitalWrite(IN_rightA, HIGH);
53         digitalWrite(IN_rightB, LOW);
54         analogWrite(RightMotor, speed);
55     }
56 }
57 // Veering slightly right when the left sensor detects the line
58 else if (middle_sensor_read == LOW && left_sensor_read == HIGH && right_sensor_read == LOW) {
59     digitalWrite(IN_leftA, HIGH);
60     digitalWrite(IN_leftB, LOW);
61     analogWrite(LeftMotor, speed);
62
63     digitalWrite(IN_rightA, HIGH);
64     digitalWrite(IN_rightB, LOW);
65     analogWrite(RightMotor, turn_speed);
66 }
67 // Veering slightly left when the right sensor detects the line
68 else if (middle_sensor_read == LOW && left_sensor_read == LOW && right_sensor_read == HIGH) {
69     digitalWrite(IN_leftA, HIGH);
70     digitalWrite(IN_leftB, LOW);
71     analogWrite(LeftMotor, turn_speed);
72
73     digitalWrite(IN_rightA, HIGH);
74     digitalWrite(IN_rightB, LOW);
75     analogWrite(RightMotor, speed);
76 }
77 // 90-degree left turn when both middle and left sensors detect the line
78 else if (middle_sensor_read == HIGH && left_sensor_read == HIGH && right_sensor_read == LOW) {
79     digitalWrite(IN_leftA, LOW); // Left motor backward
80 }
81 }
```

Task3:

```
Sketch Tools Help
Arduino Uno
taskino
1 #define IN_leftA 2
2 #define IN_leftB 8
3 #define IN_rightA 12
4 #define IN_rightB 13
5 #define pin_4 7
6 #define RightMotor 9
7 #define LeftMotor 10
8
9 #define LeftSensor A2
10 #define RightSensor A0
11 #define MiddleSensor A1
12 int left_sensor_read, right_sensor_read, middle_sensor_read;
13 int prev_left_sensor_read, prev_right_sensor_read, prev_middle_sensor_read;
14
15
16 void setup() {
17   pinMode(IN_leftA, OUTPUT);
18   pinMode(IN_leftB, OUTPUT);
19   pinMode(IN_rightA, OUTPUT);
20   pinMode(IN_rightB, OUTPUT);
21   pinMode(pin_4, OUTPUT);
22
23   pinMode(RightMotor, OUTPUT);
24   pinMode(LeftMotor, OUTPUT);
25
26   pinMode(LeftSensor, INPUT);
27   pinMode(RightSensor, INPUT);
28   pinMode(MiddleSensor, INPUT);
29
30   Serial.begin(9600);
31
32 }
33
```

```
Sketch Tools Help
Arduino Uno
taskino
34
35 void loop() {
36   prev_left_sensor_read = left_sensor_read;
37   prev_right_sensor_read = right_sensor_read;
38   prev_middle_sensor_read = middle_sensor_read;
39
40   int left_sensor_read = digitalRead(LeftSensor);
41   int right_sensor_read = digitalRead(RightSensor);
42   int middle_sensor_read = digitalRead(MiddleSensor);
43   int speed = 60;
44   int turn_speed = 30;
45   //int full_speed = 255;
46
47   if (middle_sensor_read==HIGH && left_sensor_read==LOW && right_sensor_read==LOW) //moving forward
48   {
49     digitalWrite(IN_leftA, HIGH);
50     digitalWrite(IN_leftB, LOW);
51     digitalWrite(IN_rightA, HIGH);
52     digitalWrite(IN_rightB, LOW);
53     analogWrite(LeftMotor, speed);
54     analogWrite(RightMotor, speed);
55
56   } else if (middle_sensor_read==LOW && left_sensor_read==HIGH && right_sensor_read==LOW) //veering slightly right
57   {
58     digitalWrite(IN_leftA, HIGH);
59     digitalWrite(IN_leftB, LOW);
60     digitalWrite(LeftMotor, speed);
61     delay(50);
62
63     digitalWrite(IN_rightA, HIGH);
64     digitalWrite(IN_rightB, LOW);
65     analogWrite(RightMotor, turn_speed);
66
67
```

```
68
69   } else if (middle_sensor_read==LOW && left_sensor_read==LOW && right_sensor_read==HIGH) //veering slightly left
70   {
71     digitalWrite(IN_leftA, HIGH);
72     digitalWrite(IN_leftB, LOW);
73     analogWrite(LeftMotor, turn_speed);
74
75     digitalWrite(IN_rightA, HIGH);
76     digitalWrite(IN_rightB, LOW);
77     analogWrite(RightMotor, speed);
78     delay(50);
79
80     digitalWrite(IN_rightA, HIGH);
81     digitalWrite(IN_rightB, LOW);
82     analogWrite(RightMotor, speed);
83     delay(50);
84
85   } else if (middle_sensor_read==HIGH && left_sensor_read==HIGH && right_sensor_read==LOW) //90 degree turn to the left
86   {
87     digitalWrite(IN_leftA, LOW);
88     digitalWrite(IN_leftB, HIGH);
89     analogWrite(LeftMotor, 20);
90
91     digitalWrite(IN_rightA, HIGH);
92     digitalWrite(IN_rightB, LOW);
93     analogWrite(RightMotor, speed);
94     delay(50);
95
96   } else if (middle_sensor_read==HIGH && left_sensor_read==LOW && right_sensor_read==HIGH) //90 degree turn to the right
97   {
98     digitalWrite(IN_leftA, HIGH);
99     digitalWrite(IN_leftB, LOW);
100    analogWrite(LeftMotor, speed);
101
102    digitalWrite(IN_rightA, LOW);
103    digitalWrite(IN_rightB, HIGH);
104    analogWrite(RightMotor, 20);
105    delay(50);
106
107
```



```
task.ho
..
98 }else if (middle_sensor_read==HIGH && left_sensor_read==HIGH && right_sensor_read==HIGH) //intersection case
99 {digitalWrite(IN_leftA,HIGH);
100 digitalWrite(IN_leftB,LOW);
101 analogWrite(LeftMotor, speed);
102
103 digitalWrite(IN_rightA,HIGH);
104 digitalWrite(IN_rightB,LOW);
105 analogWrite(RightMotor, speed);
106
107 }else if (middle_sensor_read ==LOW && left_sensor_read ==LOW && right_sensor_read ==LOW) {
108 // All sensors lost the line
109 // Use previous sensor readings to recover
110
111 if (prev_left_sensor_read ==HIGH) {
112 // If previously veering left, adjust to the right
113 digitalWrite(IN_leftA,HIGH);
114 digitalWrite(IN_leftB,LOW);
115 analogWrite(LeftMotor, turn_speed);
116
117 digitalWrite(IN_rightA,HIGH);
118 digitalWrite(IN_rightB,LOW);
119 analogWrite(RightMotor, speed);
120
121 } else if (prev_right_sensor_read ==HIGH) {
122 // If previously veering right, adjust to the left
123 digitalWrite(IN_leftA,HIGH);
124 digitalWrite(IN_leftB,LOW);
125 analogWrite(LeftMotor, speed);
126
127 digitalWrite(IN_rightA,HIGH);
128 digitalWrite(IN_rightB,LOW);
129 analogWrite(RightMotor, turn_speed);
130
131 }
```

6 . Conclusion

The project successfully demonstrated the capability of an autonomous robotic vehicle to perform smart city-related tasks. The robot's design met all technical specifications, and the algorithms were fine-tuned to optimize task performance. Future enhancements could involve integrating more advanced sensors and improving obstacle avoidance for the delivery route.